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DARK AVENGERS #1

BY MIKE DEODATO

THE CASTLE OF MORGANA LE FAY, 690 AD.

WATERS OF AVALON, SHOW ME VICTOR VON DOOM.

SHOW ME WHERE IN TIME MY BETRAYER HAS HIDDEN FROM ME.

VISTUNI MANANA.

VISTUNI ALAGULNAU.

VISTUNI CROLONU...

THANK YOU FOR MEETING WITH ME.

OKAY.

IT'S A NEW DAY.

SO LISTEN CAREFULLY...

THIS IS HOW IT'S GOING TO BE.

AVENGERS TOWER, TODAY!

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN WATCHING US ALL OVER THE WORLD.

AS WE START OUR HEALING...AS WE START TO UNDERSTAND HOW WE AS A SPECIES HAVE YET AGAIN TRIUMPHED OVER THOSE WHO WOULD TRY TO TAKE AWAY WHAT IS RIGHTFULLY OURS...

IT IS MY HONOR TO INTRODUCE TO YOU...

YOUR PROTECTORS...

YOUR WARRIORS...

YOUR...

AVENGERS!!!

ONE WEEK AGO.

MISTER OSBORN...

I'M VICTORIA HAND.

MISS HAND.

I WAS-- WELL, I WAS VERY SURPRISED TO GET YOUR CALL, SIR.

I THOUGHT WHEN S.H.I.E.L.D. WENT AWAY, SO DID MY JOB.

IT DID.

YOU'RE NO LONGER A S.H.I.E.L.D. ACCOUNTANT.

BUSINESS AFFAIRS OPERATIVE.

YOU'RE MY DEPUTY DIRECTOR.

OF WHAT?

H.A.M.M.E.R.

DOES IT STAND FOR SOMETHING?
YES.
WHAT?
GET TO WORK ON IT FOR ME.
THAT IS ONE OF THE *MANY* THINGS ON YOUR "*TO DO*" LIST.
THIS IS MY TO DO LIST?
THAT'S THE FIRST PART.
WE'RE BUILDING A NEW WORLD PEACEKEEPING TASK FORCE FROM SCRATCH. SO, I IMAGINE YOU'LL BE BUSY.
H.A.M.M.E.R.
AND THE NEW AVENGERS.
REALLY?
WE START WITH A FULL LIST OF S.H.I.E.L.D. OPERATIVES HERE AND ABROAD...
I WANT LISTS. AGENTS, HEROES, CRIMINALS, UNDERCOVERS, HYDRA AGENTS, A.I.M... I WANT TO KNOW THE ALLEGIANCES. I WANT TO KNOW OUR DEFECTORS....
I WANT A LIST OF STARK ***LOYALISTS***, A LIST OF FURY LOYALISTS AND A LIST OF CAPTAIN AMERICA LOYALISTS...

I WANT TO WEED OUT THE MALCONTENTS. I WANT AN ***ARMY*** OF MEN AND WOMEN READY TO TAKE BACK THE WORLD.
AND THOSE WHO ARE ***NOT*** READY WILL BE REPLACED.
I WANT A FULL REPORT ON THE FIFTY STATE INITIATIVE.
I WANT CAMP HAMMOND STRIPPED DOWN AND REBUILT.
AND I WANT YOU TO TAKE THIS STARKTECH GOLDEN GOOSE OF A HELICARRIER AND I WANT IT SCRAPPED.
I WANT THE USELESS CAPEKILLER ARMOR AND WEAPONS SYSTEMS DISCONTINUED AND REPLACED.
YOU USE ***MY*** DESIGNS. YOU PUT THEM INTO FULL PRODUCTION.

IS THAT WHAT ***THIS*** IS?
IT IS.
BEFORE I WAS THE ME YOU SEE, I WAS A HELL OF A WEAPONS DESIGNER.
I WANT ALL THIS RED AND GOLD OUT OF SIGHT.
YES, SIR.
YOU'RE MY EYES AND EARS AND MOUTH NOW.
YES, SIR.
WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO MAKE SOME TOUGH DECISIONS ABOUT SOME TOUGH INDIVIDUALS.
I WOULD ASSUME SO.
IF YOU DON'T WANT THE JOB, SPEAK NOW.

I'M NOT SURE IF YOU'RE AWARE, BUT I WAS VERY VOCAL ABOUT MY FEELINGS ABOUT NICK FURY AND TONY STARK AND WHAT ***I*** CONSIDERED TO BE A SOFT VIEW ON TERRORISM AND AN ABUSE OF--
WHY DO YOU THINK YOU'RE EVEN HERE?
THAT'S WHAT I WANT FROM YOU, VICTORIA.
IF YOU SEE SOMETHING GOING ON THAT YOU DON'T LIKE, YOU SAY SO, YOU SPEAK YOUR MIND.
BUT I DON'T THINK ***SOFT*** IS GOING TO BE A WORD YOU'LL BE USING MUCH TO DESCRIBE ME.
DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYS ***MORE?***
CONSIDERABLY.
BUT YOU'LL BE WORKING 24 HOURS A DAY, SEVEN DAYS A WEEK FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE. SO, DON'T GET TOO EXCITED.

WHAT ABOUT MARIA HILL?

DIRECTOR OSBORN, MARIA HILL IS HERE.

THUNDERBOLTS MOUTAIN, COYOTE SPRINGS, COLORADO, BASE OF THE THUNDERBOLTS.

SIX DAYS AGO.

MISS HILL.

MISTER OSBORN.

I'M SORRY YOU HAD TO FLY ALL THE WAY OUT HERE TO HEAR THIS, BUT AS YOU KNOW, S.H.I.E.L.D. IS NO LONGER.

A NEW ORGANIZATION IS BEING ESTABLISHED IN ITS PLACE. I WILL BE RUNNING THE DAY TO DAY ON THAT...

BECAUSE OF YOUR COMPLETE FAILURE TO DETECT THE SKRULL INVASION WITHIN YOUR RANKS.

BECAUSE OF YOUR FAILURE TO DEFEND OUR WORLD AGAINST THE GROUND ASSAULT.

YOUR PRESENCE WILL NO LONGER BE REQUIRED.

I KNOW.

WELL, THEN I'M DOUBLY SORRY YOU HAD TO COME ALL THE WAY OUT HERE.

I'M NOT. I WANTED TO LOOK YOU RIGHT IN THE EYE. I WANTED THIS MOMENT WITH YOU.

I WANTED TO TELL YOU THAT WHEN YOU *DO* CRASH AND BURN--

--AND... OH YOU *WILL*--

--I WILL BE THERE WHEN IT HAPPENS.

LAUGHING MY ASS OFF.

WHO'S THE GIRLISH BOY?
HAS-BEEN.
SIT, BULLSEYE. WATER?
VODKA.
NOT ON *YOUR* MEDS.
TRUE THAT.
YOU DID AMAZING WORK DURING THE GROUND BATTLE.
THAT WAS FUN. TOOK THE EDGE OFF FOR A WHILE. IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.
THE NEW DRUGS ARE WORKING. YOU HELD IT TOGETHER. YOU WERE A WARRIOR.
WHAT'S COMING NEXT FROM YOU HERE? A "*SO*" OR A "*BUT*"?
SO...I WANT TO *REWARD* YOU. I WANT TO EXPAND OUR RELATIONSHIP.
REINVENT IT.
HOW BADLY ARE YOU LOOKING TO SCREW ME, NORMS?
NOT AT ALL.
WE'RE MOVING TO NEW YORK.
WHAT'S IN NEW YORK?
AVENGERS TOWER.

FIVE DAYS AGO.

MS. MARVEL...

ARE YOU REPORTING FOR DUTY?

FOR DUTY...TO *YOU?*

I AM RUNNING THE AVENGERS. YOU ARE THE LEADER OF THE AVENGERS.

I REPORT TO TONY STARK.

TONY IS NO LONGER HERE.

THIS IS TONY'S HOUSE.

ACTUALLY, FUNNY STORY, BUT NO...

HE USED S.H.I.E.L.D. FUNDING TO REBUILD THE TOWER AFTER THE HULK ATTACK.

HE USED S.H.I.E.L.D. FUNDING TO FINANCE THE AVENGERS.

AND NOW...HE IS OUT.

SO...

HIS TOWER AND EVERYTHING IN IT IS THE PROPERTY OF S.H.I.E.L.D.

I'M IN CHARGE OF S.H.I.E.L.D., SO...

I FEEL LIKE I'VE TAKEN CRAZY PILLS.

WHY-WHY WOULD TONY *DO* THAT?

CLEARLY HE DIDN'T THINK THIS DAY WOULD EVER COME.

I RESIGN FROM THE AVENGERS.

YOU ARE REGISTERED, YOU ARE MILITARY...

I HAVE THE RIGHT TO *ORDER* YOU TO TAKE YOUR POSITION, CAPTAIN.

I RESIGN FROM THE AVENGERS.

THEN YOU ARE UNDER ARREST.

NO ONE WORTH A *DAMN* WILL SIDE WITH YOU, NORMAN.

THERE WILL *BE* NO AVENGERS.

NONE.

WHAT THE @#$% ARE YOU TWO DOING?

I AM ARES, THE GOD OF WAR.

THERE ARE BATTLES THAT MUST BE FOUGHT.

DO YOU KNOW WHO *HE IS?*

HE'S THE WARRIOR WHO BESTED OUR ENEMY IN BATTLE.

HE'S A *KILLER.*

SO AM I.

BOB?

THIS IS WHERE I LIVE.

WHAT- WHAT DID HE PROMISE YOU?

HE'S HELPING ME.

HOW?

YOU HAVE TO LISTEN TO ME. BOTH OF YOU...

YOU'RE MAKING A *HUGE MISTAKE* HERE.

I'M TALKING TO THREE LUNATICS.

YOU'RE PUTTING YOUR EGO IN FRONT OF YOUR TASK.

IT'S NOT EGO.

I WON'T DO IT. I WON'T WORK WITH HIM. I WON'T DO IT.

THEN SURRENDER YOURSELF HERE AND WE'LL LET A MILITARY COURT DECIDE YOUR FATE.

WOW, THAT WENT BADLY.

SHOULD I GO AFTER HER?

DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT IT, BOBBY. SHE'LL COME AROUND.

MEANWHILE THERE'S MORE MS. MARVELS WHERE THAT CAME FROM.

THUNDERBOLTS MOUNTAIN.

I'M MEDITATING, OSBORN.

FUMP

PUT IT ON, DOCTOR.

YOU AND YOUR MOONSTONE ARE COMING TO NEW YORK WITH ME.

WHY CAN'T I JUST BE MOONSTONE? I LIKE BEING MOONSTONE.

YOU'LL BE MS. MARVEL.

I WANT TO BE MOONSTONE.

MOONSTONE STAYS HERE IN THE MOUNTAIN UNDER ARMED GUARD.

MS. MARVEL GETS HER OWN PENTHOUSE IN NEW YORK CITY WITH FULL PRIVILEGES.

I'M MS. MARVEL NOW?

WELCOME TO THE AVENGERS.

NEVER THOUGHT I'D HEAR THOSE WORDS.

HEY, OSBORN, AM I STILL TEAM LEADER??

IN YA GO, SKRULL.

CLANG

YOU CAN SHAPE-SHIFT AGAIN, SKRULL.

AGH!

CLINK

DO YOU KNOW WHO SPIDER-MAN IS?

WHO IS THERE?

TURN YOURSELF INTO SPIDER-MAN. SHAPE-SHIFT INTO SPIDER-MAN.

WHY?

BECAUSE I WANT YOU TO.

WHO ARE YOU?

DO IT AND YOU'LL LIVE.

HEY...

THAT'S PRETTY GOOD.

AAIIEEEAAGGHH!

CRUNCH

IS VENOM FED?

YES SIR.

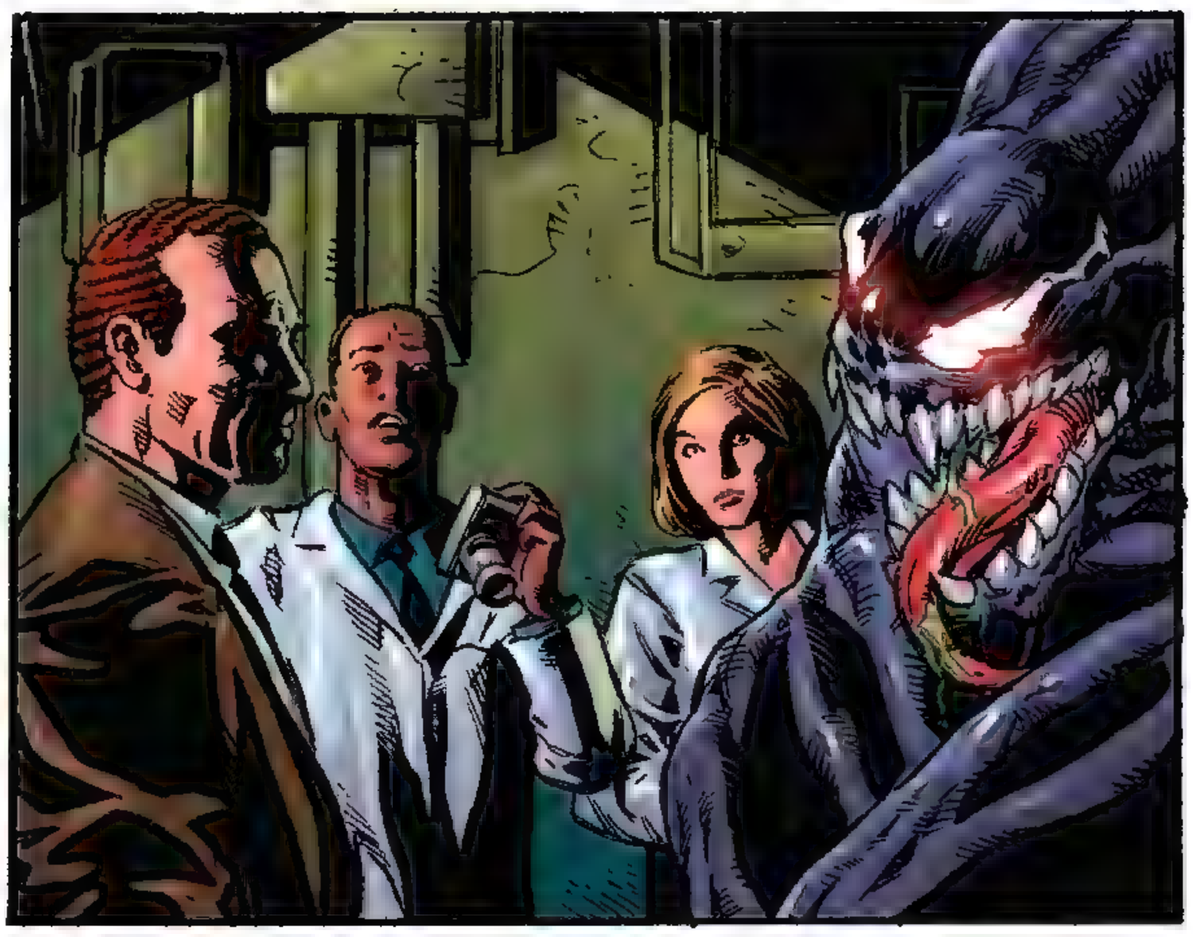
OPEN IT UP.

SKRULLS MAKE ME GASSY, OZMAN.

MAC, YOU BEHAVED YOURSELF DURING THE INVASION AND I PROMISED YOU I'D DO RIGHT BY YOU.

TAKE THIS.
YOU TRYING TO POISON ME?
I'M TRYING TO MAKE YOUR LIFE LIVABLE.
WHAT'LL IT DO?
HOPEFULLY... PRESERVE YOUR POWERS BUT MAKE YOU PRESENTABLE.
BUT I LIKE ME LIKE THIS.
YEAH?
YOU WANT TO GET OUT OF THIS MOUNTAIN? YOU WANT TO MEET A NICE GIRL? TAKE THIS.

IF THIS IS A TRICK...
IF I WANTED TO KILL YOU, I'D HAVE POISONED YOUR DINNER.



FUMP

AAARRRRR!!!

AHHAAHH!! GRRR!

HHRR!!

MAC? HOW DO YOU FEEL? CAN YOU GET UP?

TOOM

YOU KNOW WHAT, NORMY?

I TAKE BACK EVERYTHING I'VE EVER SAID ABOUT YOU.

WELL, ALMOST EVERYTHING...

NEW ORLEANS. FOUR DAYS AGO.

Mycola Pizza Express Gourmet Pizza

WOOD-FIRED ENTREES

FABULOUS SANDWICHES

OPEN

DAKEN AKIHIRO, I'M NORMAN OSBORN. THIS IS ARES, GOD OF WAR.

HOY!

YOU'RE NOT IN TROUBLE.

COME. SIT.

YOU HAVE TO TASTE THIS.

'TIS GLORIOUS CRAP.

HOW DID YOU KNOW I'D BE HERE?

YOU'RE AN UNSTABLE MUTANT KILLER, IT'S NOW MY JOB TO KNOW WHERE YOU ARE.

ARE YOU THE *REASON* I'M HERE?

YES.

SO THERE'S NO JOB FOR ME?

MAN'S GOT THE STONES TO BEAT THE HELL OUT OF WOLVERINE AND WANTS TO KNOW IF THERE'S A JOB.

THAT IS BETWEEN ME AND MY FATHER.

HA!!

WHAT'S SO FUNNY?

JUST CAN'T IMAGINE A WOMAN WHO'D LET THAT FERRET CLIMB ON TOP OF--

SNIKT

THAT IS MY MOTHER YOU'RE SPEAKING OF!!

I'D LIKE TO HIRE YOU FULL-TIME.

TO DO WHAT?

WELL, TICK OFF YOUR DAD FOR STARTERS...

THE CUBE, MAXIMUM SECURITY PENITENTIARY. THREE DAYS AGO.

WHY ARE YOU HERE?

YOU'RE A WAR HERO, NOH-VARR. WHY ARE YOU SITTING IN A CLOSED JAIL?

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

I'M FASCINATED BY YOU.

YOU CAME HERE FROM ANOTHER DIMENSION, DECLARED WAR ON THE EARTH, BUT WHEN PUSH CAME TO SHOVE, YOU DEFENDED IT.

I WANT YOU TO BE WHAT YOU ALREADY ARE...

KREE WARRIOR, SWORN ENEMY OF THE SKRULL EMPIRE.

WHAT DO YOU WANT?

THE STRANGER FROM ANOTHER WORLD WHO STOOD ALONGSIDE US AND HELPED SAVE THE WORLD.

I WANT YOU TO *BE* CAPTAIN MARVEL.

WHAT ARE WE MISSING, VICTORIA?

MISSING?

THERE'S SOMETHING MISSING.

AN ENEMY?

NO. THE TEAM ITSELF.

IT'S A PRETTY HARD-CORE TEAM, SIR.

I KNOW, BUT--

MAYBE TOO HARDCORE FOR THE PUBLIC TASTE.

I'M NOT WORRIED ABOUT THAT. THAT'S WHAT THE WORLD WANTS RIGHT NOW.

YOU NEED A JARVIS.

WHAT'S A JARVIS?

YOU NEED A FULL STAFF OF HOUSEKEEPERS, COOKS AND ARMED GUARDS AT EVERY DOOR.

YOUR REFORMED THUNDERBOLTS ARE TRULY DISGUSTING PIGS.

I'LL PUT TOGETHER A LIST.

YES, BUT...

THE TEAM ITSELF. IT'S MISSING SOMETHING.

CAPTAIN AMERICA AND IRON MAN.

NO. THE SYMBOLISM.

CAPTAIN AMERICA. IRON MAN. THE SOLDIER AND THE KNIGHT. THESE ARE MORE THAN MEN.

CAPTAIN AMERICA AND IRON MAN ARE GOING TO BE DIFFICULT GETS.

THEY ARE SYMBOLS THAT PEOPLE GATHER BEHIND....

YOUR THREE O' CLOCK IS HERE.

THEY CALL ME THE GHOST.

I KNOW. I CALLED FOR YOU.

I WASN'T GOING TO COME. I WASN'T. BUT YOU GOT ME AN INVITE *INSIDE* STARK TOWER.

IT'S TOO TEMPTING. I HATE TONY STARK.

I KNOW.

I KNOW.

I HATE THIS CORPORATIST GOVERNMENT WORLD WE LIVE IN.

AND HE REPRESENTS-- *REPRESENTED* ALL OF IT. EVERY SICKENING THING.

I'M GOING TO BRING IT *ALL* DOWN, MAN. *ALL* OF IT.

GOOD LUCK WITH THAT.

DON'T CONDESCEND TO ME, MAN!! I HAVE THE POWER TO SLIP INTO ANY ROOM, ANY ALARM, ANY CODE...

I KNOW. I KNOW...

THAT'S WHY I INVITED YOU HERE.

GO IN THERE AND OPEN THE DOOR FOR ME.

WHAT'S IN THERE?

I DON'T KNOW.

IT WAS TONY STARK'S AND NOW IT'S MINE.

WHO BETTER THAN *YOU* TO OPEN THIS DOOR FOR ME.

WHAT DO *I* GET OUT OF IT?

I HAVE PLANS FOR YOU.

YOU- YOU WANT ME TO BE AN AVENGER?

YOU? NO.

THAT WOULD BE A SLAP IN THE FACE OF EVERYTHING YOU STAND FOR.

BUT I HAVE A PLACE FOR YOU. BIG PLANS.

AND ALL I HAVE TO DO IS OPEN THIS?

IF YOU WOULD.

WHERE'D YOU GET HIM?
SSHH!
HE SMELLS.
QUIET.
BADLY.
YOU'RE A FINE WOMAN.
OH, MY GOD...
YES, I AM.
C-CHUNG!

LATVERIA. THIS MORNING.

THIS IS THUNDERBOLTS AGENT 567 LUCAS COMING IN ON CASTLE DOOM FINAL APPROACH.

WE HAVE VICTOR VON DOOM IN TOW. OVER.

THIS IS THUNDERBOLTS AGENT 567 LUCAS COMING IN ON CASTLE DOOM FINAL APPROACH.

WE HAVE VICTOR VON DOOM IN TOW. OVER.

ISN'T THERE A GROUND CREW?

EXCUSE ME, DOCTOR, CAN WE TAKE A PICTURE.

NO ONE? I THOUGHT WE HAD A CREW DOWN HERE.

SOME HOMECOMING, DOOM.

YOUR PEOPLE ARE REAL GLAD TO SEE YOU.

IF YOU CONTINUE TO SPEAK, THERE WILL BE NO END TO YOUR SUFFERING.

WHO THE HELL IS--?

AVENGERS TOWER, NOW.

YOUR... AVENGERS!!!

THE ALL NEW...

CAPTAIN MARVEL

SENTRY

MS. MARVEL

ARES

WOLVERINE

HAWKEYE

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

EMBRACE THIS AVENGERS ASSEMBLE

MY NAME IS NORMAN OSBORN AND I APPROVE THESE AVENGERS!!

I AM THE IRON PATRIOT.

I WILL LEAD THESE NEW AVENGERS INTO BATTLE AGAINST ANYONE WHO WOULD THREATEN OUR WAY OF LIFE.

THOR #600

BY **OLIVIER COIPEL**

BEAUTIFUL.

ALL MY LIFE--

--ALL MY *LIVES*--

--I HAVE AWAITED SUCH A DAY AS THIS.

A DAY OF--

"VICTORY"

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EVERY PIECE IS IN POSITION. LONG HAVE I BEEN UNDERESTIMATED, THOUGHT IRRELEVANT, BRUSHED ASIDE AND MOCKED BY THOSE WHO FORGET WHO I AM, WHAT I AM, AND WHAT I CAN DO.

GENTLE AS A WHISPER, FLEETING AS A THOUGHT, THE SNOW WILL CHANGE THAT. THE SNOW WILL ***STOP*** THAT.

GREETINGS, BOR--

--AND FAREWELL.

FWOOOOOH!

FATHER...?

MY SON...HELP ME...

I AM UNDONE... FIND A SORCERER, THE MOST POWERFUL YOU CAN...MY SPIRIT WILL REST IN THE SNOW...AND WAIT FOR YOU TO RECALL ME...

FIND M
IN THE SN
MY SON
RESTORE
HELP M

"FIND ME IN THE SNOW...."

I HAVE NEWS, BOR, FATHER TO ODIN, LOST IN BATTLE, WHO BIRTHED WORLDS AND SIRED THE LINE OF WHICH THOR IS HEIR...GRANDFATHER TO A GOD WHO NEVER MET YOU, OR HEARD YOUR VOICE, OR KNEW YOUR FACE...

...YOU HAVE BEEN FOUND.

IF THEY BUT KNEW WHAT THESE WINDS PRESAGE--

--THE RETURN OF ONE WHO COULD TEAR THE LIVING HEART OUT OF THE WORLD ITSELF--

--THE TERROR ALONE WOULD KILL THEM WHERE THEY STAND.

KRAK-A-DOOOOOM!

AND NOW, THEY ARE OUT OF TIME.

BOR LIFA ENDR!

TRANSLATION: BOR LIVES AGAIN!

AND A LITTLE DISTORTION SPELL TO... *ENHANCE* THE UNSETTLING QUALITIES OF THE MODERN WORLD...A WORLD THOUSANDS OF YEARS OLDER THAN THE ONE HE KNEW.

WHAT MANNER OF DEVILMENT IS THIS? WHERE ARE MY ASGARDIANS? WHERE IS MY ARMY?

WHERE IS MY SON? WHERE IS ODIN?

MONSTROUS BEAST--

BHRRRRRARRRRR!

--DIE!

AH, THERE SHE IS, DRAWN FROM HER SALAD AND HER CHATTER BY THE CARNAGE IN THE STREET.
NOTHING IS LEFT TO CHANCE--
--AND THUS IS LOKI'S HAND CONCEALED.
MGC
SO HOW DID YOU GET HIT, TIM?
JIMMY MILLER THUMPED ME IN THE EYE.
AND YOU--
THUMPED HIM RIGHT BACK.
WHY?
WE WERE PLAYING ASGARDIANS.
I'M NOT SURE I UNDERSTAND.
THAT'S WHAT THEY DO.
ONE OF 'EM THUMPS THE OTHER, THEN HE THUMPS THE GUY BACK...THUMP, THUMP, THUMP, THUMP--
THAT'S NOT ALL THE ASGARDIANS DO, TIM.
UH-HUH. YOU EVER SEEN THESE GUYS?
WELL, I--
YOU SO NEED TO GET OUT MORE.

YOU'RE GOOD TO GO, TIM. YOUR MOM'S FINISHED THE PAPERWORK, AND YOUR EYE SHOULD BE FINE, JUST DON'T TOUCH IT IF YOU DON'T HAVE TO.

WHATEVER.

THUMP. THUMP. THUMP.

BUZZ BUZZ

June Foster

JANE? GOOD TO HEAR FROM YOU, I--

I THINK YOU BETTER GET OUR MUTUAL FRIEND UP HERE FAST, DON. THERE'S SOMEBODY TEARING UP MANHATTAN LIKE THE WHOLE CITY WAS MADE OF PAPER.

I WOULDN'T NORMALLY BOTHER YOU ABOUT A NEW YORK PROBLEM, BUT THE WAY THIS GUY LOOKS AND TALKS...IT'S A LOT LIKE THOR'S PEOPLE. MAYBE SOMEBODY WHO DIDN'T GET FOUND THE FIRST TIME.

I'M--

--HE'S--

--ON HIS WAY.

IS IT POSSIBLE? DID ONE OF THE ASGARDIANS THOR FAILED TO FIND WHEN HE RESTORED ASGARD SUDDENLY SHOW UP?

ONLY ONE WAY TO BE SURE.

BA-DOOM!

BIG OL' THUMP.

COULD IT BE? COULD THERE STILL BE MORE ASGARDIANS YET UNFOUND?

FOR IF THERE IS EVEN ONE, THEN THERE IS HOPE.

HOPE THAT THE LADY SIF MAY YET BE FOUND, THAT HER FORM AND SPIRIT SURVIVED RAGNAROK.

I MUST KNOW.

AND IN KNOWING, DARE MY HEART TOWARD FAITH.

TOASS

WHAT MANNER OF WORLD IS THIS THAT HAS SUCH BEASTS AND ENGINES OF WAR?

HAS THE WORLD CHANGED? OR HAS BOR?

AND MOST OMINOUS OF ALL...I FEEL NO TRACE OF MY SON, ODIN. IT MATTERS NOT IF HE WERE ON ANY OF THE NINE WORLDS, I WOULD *FEEL* HIS PRESENCE WERE HE STILL ALIVE.

I CAN BUT CONCLUDE--

--THAT MY SON IS DEAD, KILLED IN THE BATTLE THAT TOOK ME INTO SHADOWS UNTIL--

--UNTIL WHAT? UNTIL WHEN? HOW LONG DID I WANDER IN DARKNESS? WHO SUMMONED ME?

NO. IT MATTERS NOT. MY SON IS DEAD.

ODIN!

I SHALL AVENGE YOU.

HIS MANNER OF DRESS IS ASGARDIAN, AND HIS STANCE IS A WARRIOR'S STANCE, BUT HIS FORM IS UNFAMILIAR. FROM THE DAMAGE WROUGHT HE MUST HAVE BEEN ALARMED TO FIND HIMSELF IN SUCH DIFFERENT CIRCUMSTANCES.

STAY YOUR HAND, FRIEND.

YOU ARE SAFE, AND AMONG ALLIES. SPEAK YOUR NAME--

--THAT I MIGHT KNOW WHENCE YOU CAME, AND *WHY* YOU HAVE *COME*...

...AND *DIE* WITH YOUR *SON!*

VILLAIN... MURDERER...

YAAAAARRGHHH!

SKREEE

KA-THOOOOM!

HE STRIKES WITH THE POWER OF A GOD UNLEASHED--

--IMPOSSIBLE--

--IF NOT FOR THE ODINFORCE, I WOULD BE DEAD EVEN NOW.

MONSTROUS...HE DARES STRIKE AT ME WITH THE STOLEN POWER OF MY OWN SON! SO BE IT THEN!

TO THE DEATH!

...RIB BROKEN... SUCH POWER, SUCH...

PFAM FT TP

BOOM!

I KNOW NOT... WHO YOU ARE...BUT MY LIFE IS NOT YOURS TO TAKE...STAND AWAY...*STAND AWAY...*

...*STAND AWAY!*

THIS MUST END SWIFTLY, BEFORE INNOCENTS ARE HARMED.

SO END IT I SHALL.

FWOOP FWOOP FWOOP

NO...IT CANNOT BE.

IMPOSSIBLE!

SEE IT TREMBLE WITH FEAR BEING THUS DISARMED.

A MURDERER'S WEAPON, BRUTISH AND CRUEL. I WILL NOT SULLY MYSELF WITH IT.

WITH MY OWN HANDS SHALL I END THIS. LET A FATHER'S RAGE THIS DAY BRING HOT BLOOD TO AVENGE HIS SON--

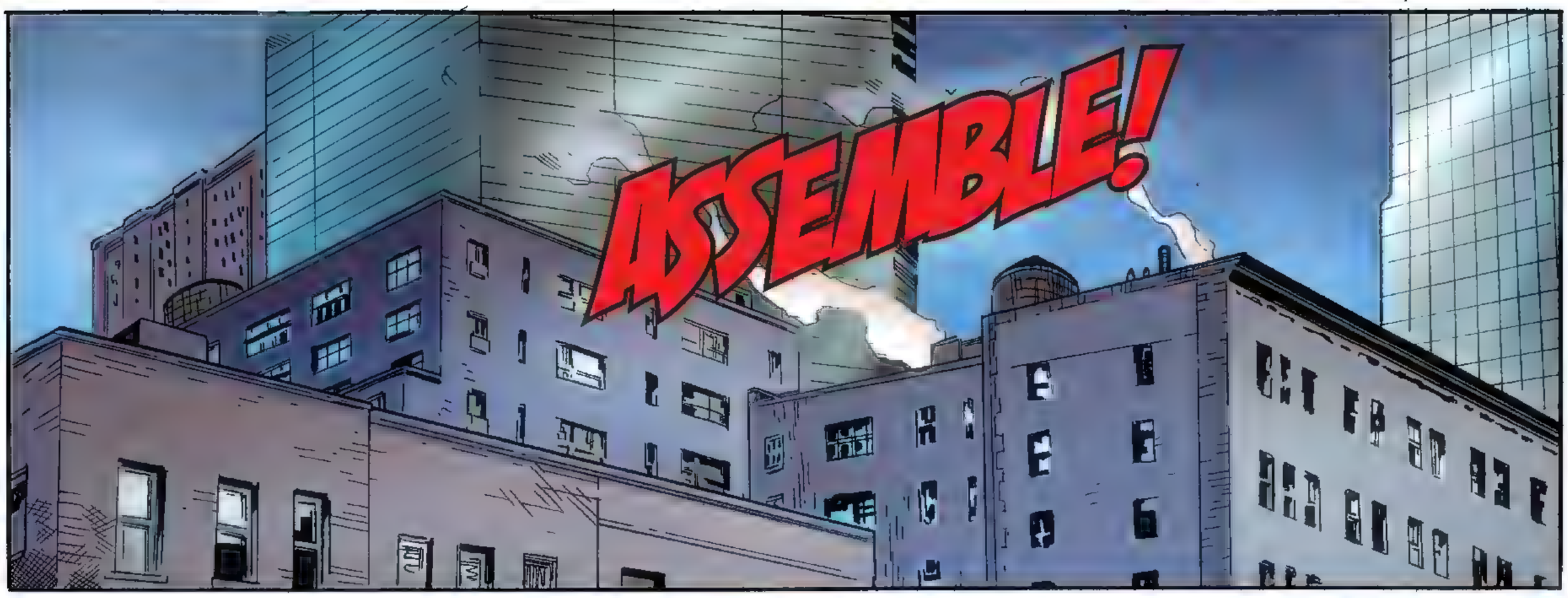
--OR LET FATHER JOIN SON IN DEATH'S EMBRACE.

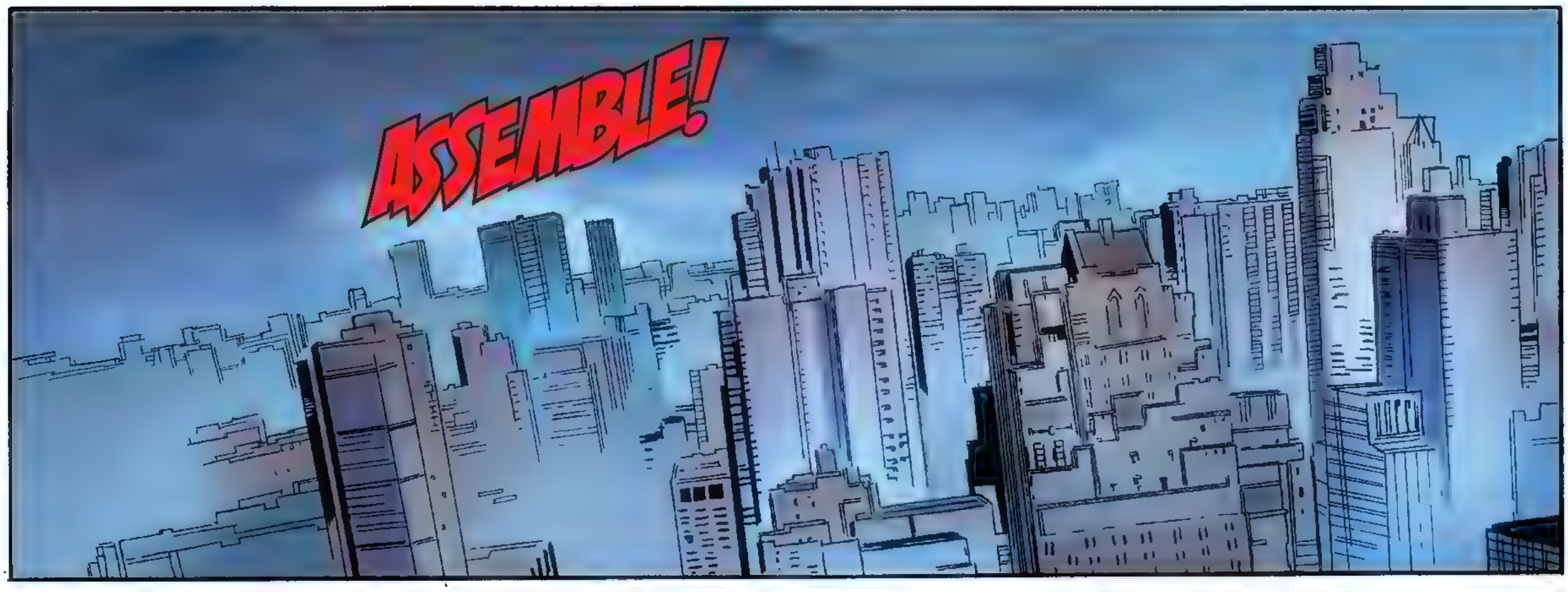
SOMETHING HERE IS MORE AMISS THAN APPEARS ON THE SURFACE...HIS WORDS ARE A JUMBLE OF SOUNDS, AS THOUGH SOMETHING STOOD BETWEEN BOTH OF US AND UNDERSTANDING.

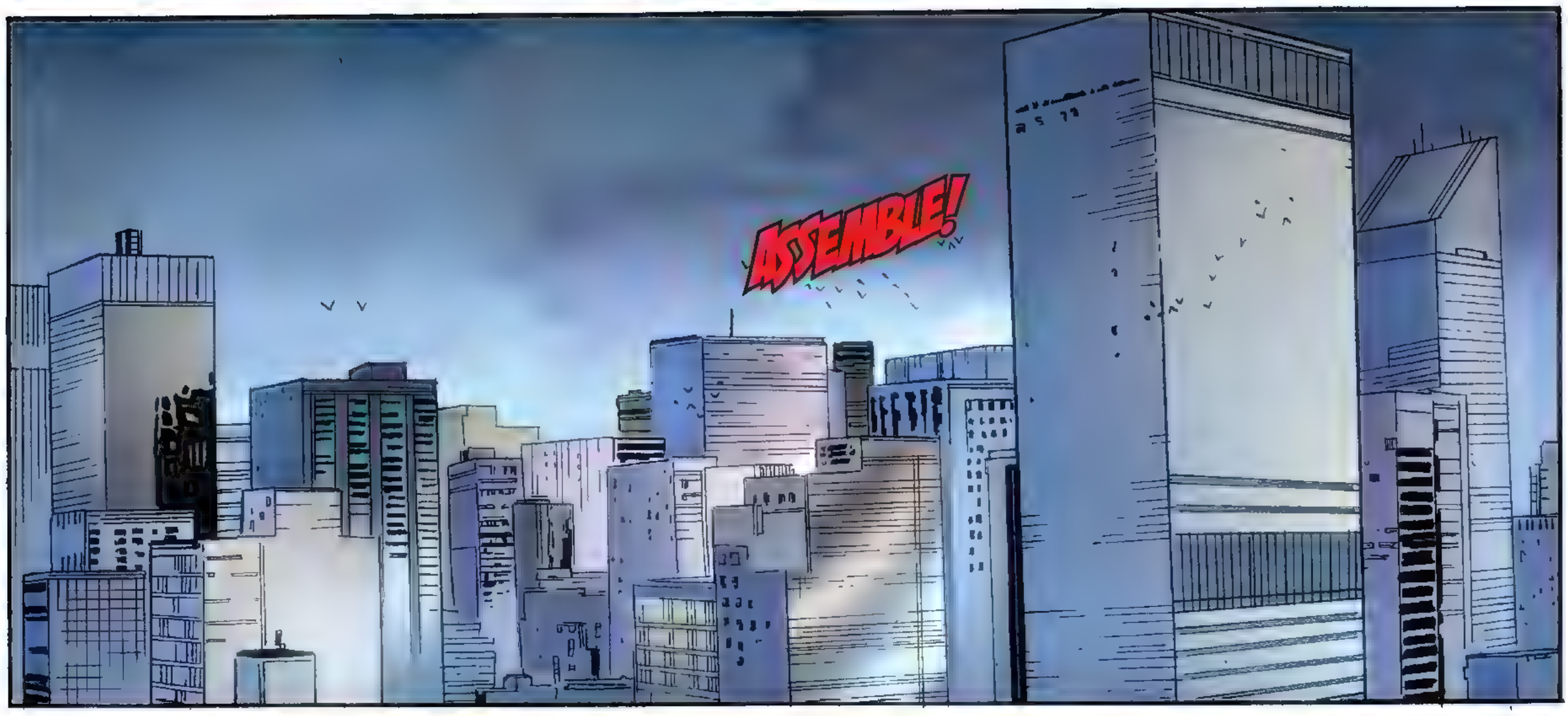
I MUST TRY TO SLOW HIM DOWN, BUY TIME TO DISCOVER WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT.

ALONE, I CANNOT STOP HIM WITHOUT KILLING HIM...BUT PERHAPS WITH GREATER NUMBERS HE CAN BE SAFELY SUBDUED. IT IS NOT A BURDEN I WISH TO SHARE, BUT MY CHOICES DIMINISH QUICKLY.

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!


ASSEMBLE!


ASSEMBLE!


ASSEMBLE!

WHERE ARE YOU HIDING, COWARD? LET US MAKE AN END OF THIS!

STAND ASIDE!

AT

IF YOU WOULD FIGHT ON HIS BEHALF, THEN TAKE WHAT HE HAS EARNED.

SEE HERE YOUR DEATH AS--

NO--

RUN! RUN BEFORE HE--

EVERYONE... STAY BACK! THIS IS BETWEEN US! DON'T...DON'T TRY TO--

SPEAK THE DEVIL'S NAME AND HE SHALL APPEAR. AND SO WE HAVE. ALL OF US.

YOU... IS IT...

AAAAAAGGGHHH!

...NO...

...THIS IS AN OUTRAGE...THIS IS BLASPHEMY!

NOT BLASPHEMY.

THE AVENGERS.

TWO-POINT-OH.

THE "O" IS FOR OUT-RAGEOUS.

AND YOU ARE WAY OUTSIDE YOUR HICKSVILLE ARENA OF "DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY."

ME, I JUST SEE TWO HYPER-THYROID CASES BREAKING THE LAW AND TEARING UP THE NEIGHBORHOOD.

TAKE 'EM BOTH DOWN.

SO, THE ENEMY HAS ALLIES...BUT EVEN *THEY* HAVE TURNED ON HIM. WHETHER FOR SPORT OR MADNESS, I CARE NOT. BUT IF THE REST OF YOU WOULD RAISE ARMS AGAINST BOR--

--THEN DIE WITH HIM!

STAND DOWN! STAND ASIDE! YOU DO NOT KNOW THE DANGER--

YOU WANT DANGER? I GOT YOUR DANGER RIGHT HERE.

ENOUGH... ENOUGH...

...ENOUGH...

BWOOM!

I AGREE, I--

CRSH!

IF YOU WISH TO DIE, STAY. IF YOU WISH TO LIVE--

--FLEE!

IF I PERSIST, IF I FIGHT AS THEY FIGHT, I RISK FALLING AS ODIN MUST HAVE FALLEN. DIMINISHED. WORN DOWN.

I WISHED TO FEEL THE THROAT OF THE ONE WHO MURDERED MY SON CRUSHED BETWEEN MY FINGERS.

BUT THERE ARE OTHER WAYS, LESS SATISFYING, BUT MORE SUBSTANTIAL.

LET THEM KNOW THEY FIGHT NOT A MAN, BUT A GOD.

LET THEM FACE THE WRATH OF POWER UNLEASHED.

AND IF I SHOULD FALL--

--THEN LET ME FALL AS A GOD!

MY LORD, BALDER, I HAVE RETURNED FROM--

--WELL, FROM WALKING TO AND FRO UPON THE EARTH, AND UP AND DOWN IN IT--

--AND I COME WITH TROUBLING NEWS.

THIS STONE REVEALS HAPPENINGS NEAR AND FAR, AND NOW IT REVEALS--

THOR--

--YES, LOCKED IN MORTAL COMBAT. I WAS NOT SURE ABOUT THE IDENTITY OF THE ONE HE FIGHTS, BUT UPON GOING THROUGH THE BOOKS OF OUR PEOPLE--

--I CAME UPON THIS IMAGE OF OUR GRANDFATHER, BOR, FATHER OF ODIN...THE VERY ARCHITECT OF ASGARD.

NO...HE WAS LOST CENTURIES AGO.

AYE, AND SO HE WAS.

AND SO IT SEEMS HE HAS RETURNED.

IF THOR SHOULD KILL BOR--

MY VERY CONCERN--

WE MUST GET THERE, LOKI...AS FAST AS YOU CAN ENCHANT A WAY, WE MUST GO!

I WILL OF COURSE DO ALL I CAN--

--WITH ALL REASONABLE SPEED.

SUCH FORCE...I'VE NEVER FELT THE LIKE OF IT BEFORE.

ENOUGH POWER TO DESTROY THE EARTH ITSELF.

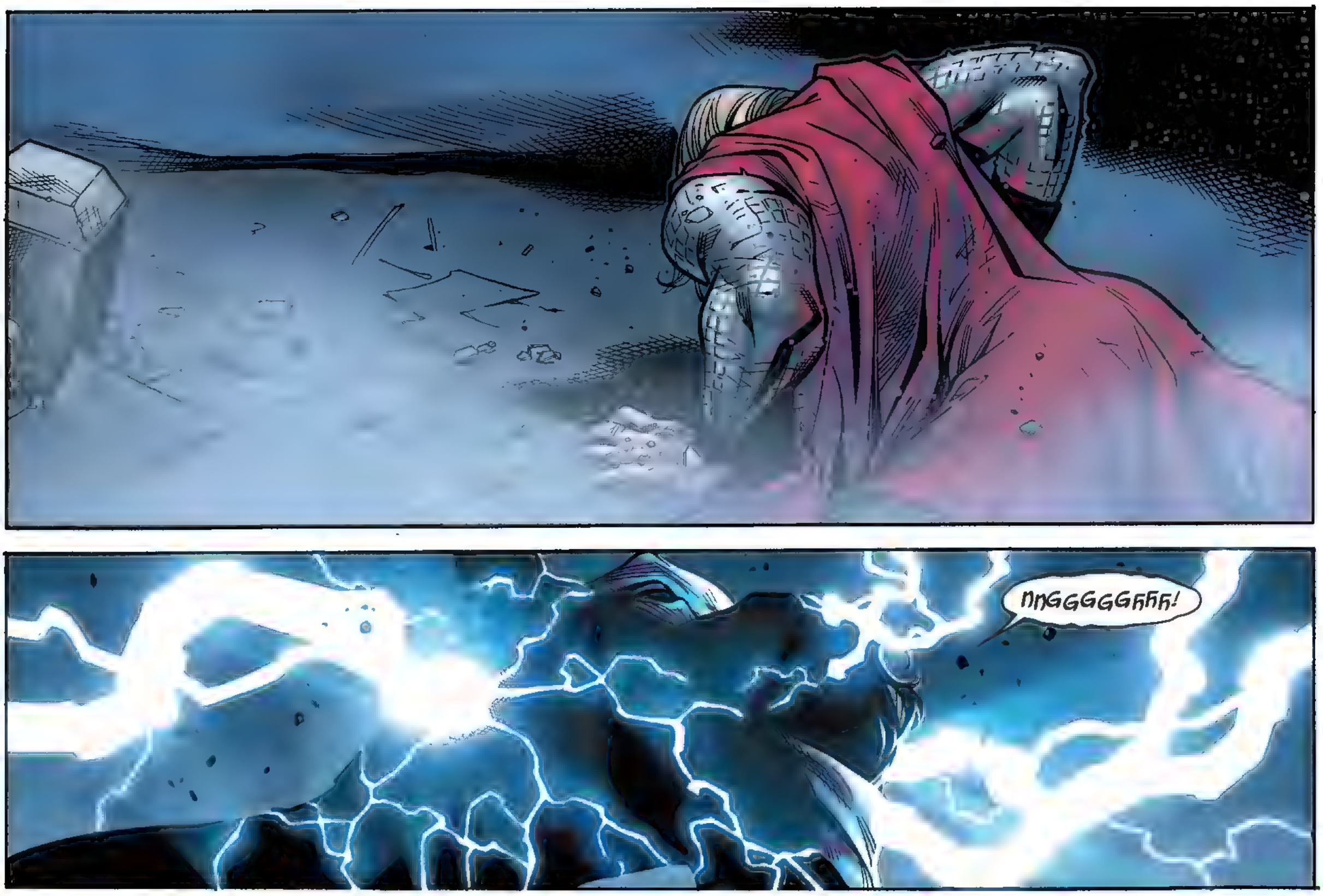
NO!

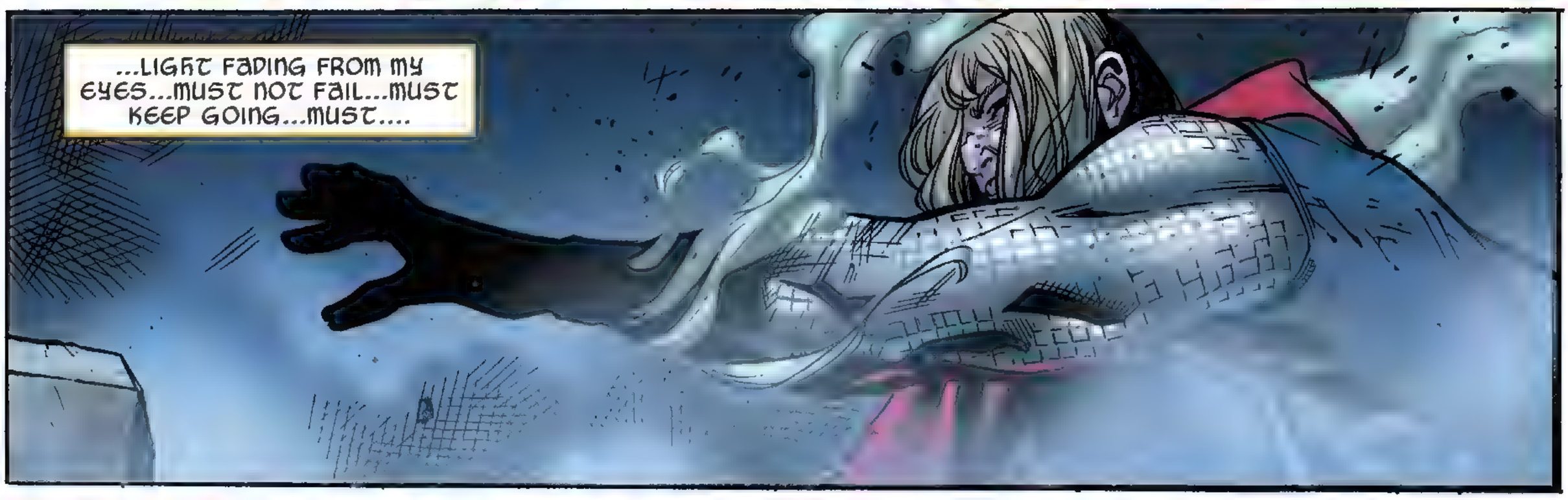
THE MORTALS CAUGHT BETWEEN US CANNOT SURVIVE THE STRUGGLE MUCH LONGER. I CANNOT LET THIS MADNESS CONTINUE! I MUST END THIS, QUICKLY!

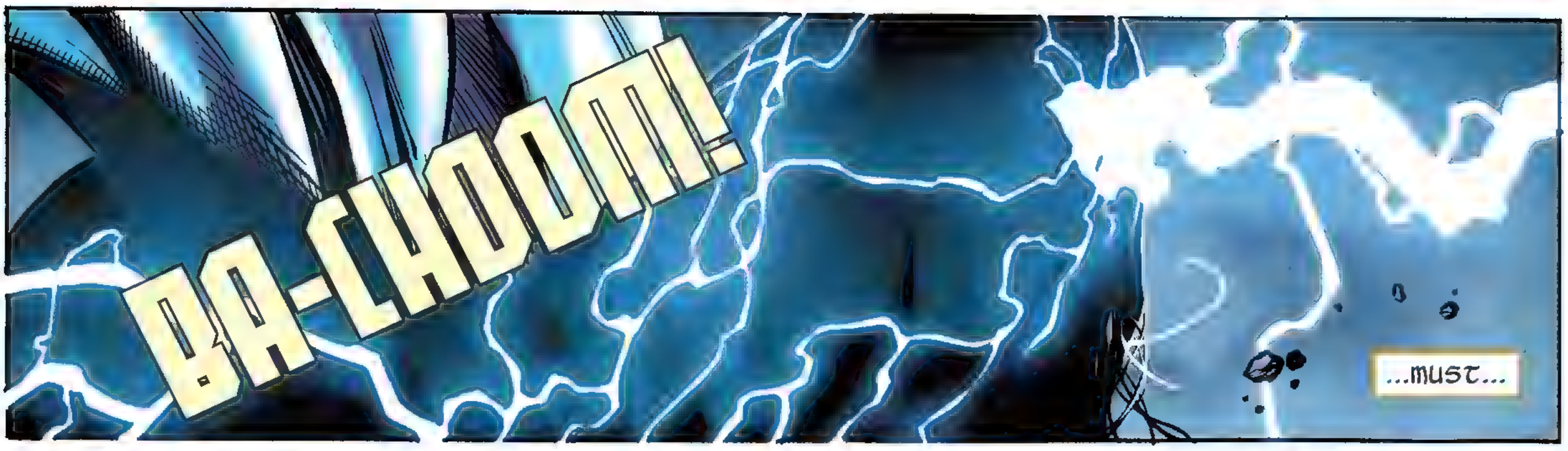
THOUGH HEL ITSELF STAND IN THE WAY, HE MUST FALL!

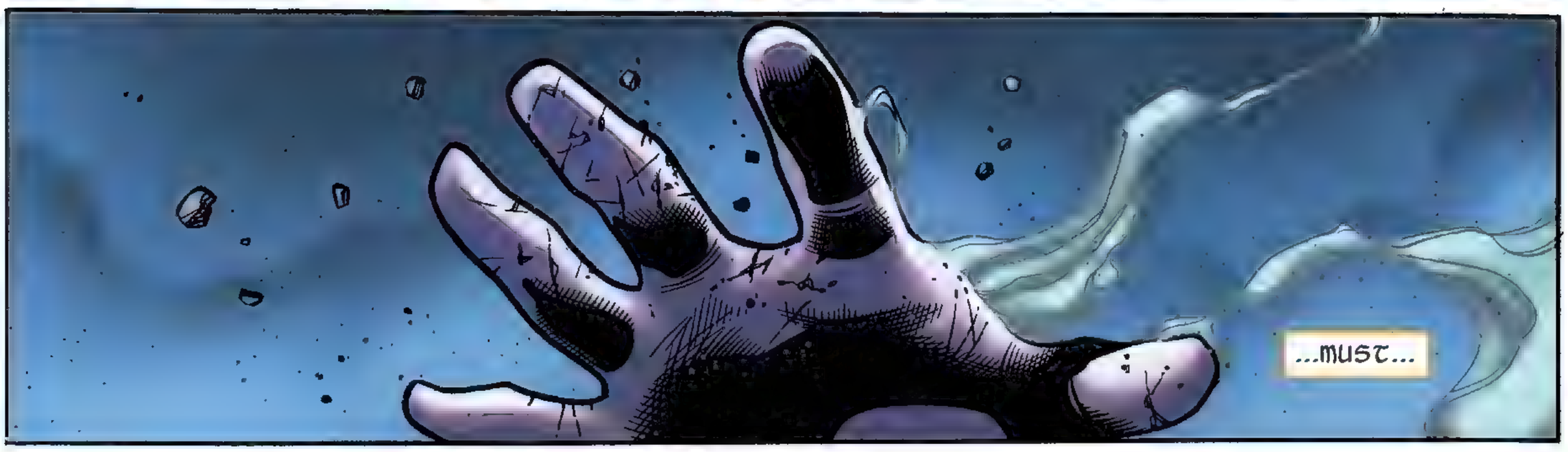
KRA-KOOM!

AGGGGGGGHHH!


NNGGGGGHHH!


...LIGHT FADING FROM MY EYES...MUST NOT FAIL...MUST KEEP GOING...MUST....


KA-CHOOM!
...must...


...must...

...stand...
...and...
...FIGHT...!

HE COMES FOR ME WITH THE STOLEN POWER OF MY SON... I FEEL HIS STRENGTH IN EACH BLOW...BUT I CANNOT YIELD...

MY LIMBS GROW WEARY...IF I DO NOT END THIS...I WILL FALL, AND THE WORLD WITH ME...

I WILL NOT ALLOW THAT... I WILL NOT--

--I WILL NOT--

NOW--

NOW!

KRAKA-BA-DOOM!

...ODIN'S BLOOD...

THOR... THOR!

HAVE I REACHED YOU IN TIME? I--

IT...IT IS DONE... HE IS--

NO--

--HE IS--

THOR... HE IS BOR... FATHER TO ODIN.

NO...IT CANNOT--

ODIN...

...I HAVE FAILED...TO AVENGE YOU. FORGIVE ME...

...MY FORM IS DELIVERED INTO THE HANDS OF MY ENEMIES... BUT MY SPIRIT WILL BE WITH YOU FOREVER--

--IN... VALHALLA...

NO... NO...

NO!

I...I DID NOT KNOW...HE BEHAVED AS ONE MAD...BENT ON DESTRUCTION--

DOUBTLESS HE WAS CONFUSED BY WHATEVER TRAVAIL HE EXPERIENCED IN THE LONG CENTURIES BETWEEN THE DAY HE DISAPPEARED AND THIS DAY.

DID YOU *TRY* TO REASON WITH HIM?

I--

MY LORD--

--I TRIED, BUT HE COULD NOT--

--YOU HAVE KILLED THE FIRST KING OF ASGARD.

CURIOUS, THAT IT DID NOT OCCUR TO ME TO PHRASE IT IN THAT WAY, BUT YOU ARE OF COURSE CORRECT, MY LORD BALDER.

LONG ABSENT OR NOT, BOR WAS AND IS THE KING.

AND THOR HAS *KILLED* THE KING.

OH...OH, THIS IS MOST DISTRESSING.

FOR IS NOT THE PUNISHMENT FOR SLAYING ANY MEMBER OF THE FAMILY ROYAL--

--THE LOSS OF ALL TITLES AND HONORS?

AND BANISHMENT FROM ASGARD?

IS THAT NOT RIGHT, MY LORD BALDER?

YES, LOKI...YES, IT IS.

"AND THE LAW MUST BE RESPECTED BEFORE ALL THINGS..."

...BEFORE PRINCES AND KINGS, BEFORE LOVE AND RIVALRY, BEFORE ILL TIMES AND GOOD. THE LAW OF ASGARD *IS* ASGARD. AND TO WALK OUTSIDE THAT LAW--

--IS TO WALK FOREVER OUTSIDE ASGARD.

THOR...THE MOMENT OF JUDGMENT COMES. IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WISH TO SAY?

HAVE I WORDS TO SAY...?

I HAVE KILLED KING BOR, A LORD OF ASGARD. HAVE I WORDS TO SAY THAT WILL CHANGE THAT? RESTORE BREATH AND LIFE? CHANGE ESSENTIAL TRUTHS INTO UNTRUTHS? SHALL I SEEK PITY FOR FAILING TO SEE WHAT BY ALL RIGHTS I SHOULD HAVE SEEN?

NO. WHAT IS DONE, IS DONE, AND SEEN, AND UNQUESTIONED.

BUT HAVE I WORDS TO SAY?

I DO...AND AT ANOTHER TIME, AND ANOTHER PLACE, I SHALL SPEAK THEM--

--AND I BELIEVE I KNOW TO ***WHOM*** THOSE WORDS SHOULD BE SPOKEN.

AND WHEN I SPEAK THEM--

--THUNDER AND FIRE AND DARKNESS SHALL FOLLOW AFTER.

MMM.

YES.

WELL.

I HEARD NO DEFENSE, MY LORD BALDER, NO MITIGATING TRUTHS, ONLY THOSE WORDS WHICH, IN SUM, EQUAL JUST ONE WORD.

GUILTY.

AS A SON OF ODIN, HALF-BROTHER TO THOR, AND A PRINCE OF ASGARD, THE FINAL JUDGMENT MUST BE YOURS. IS THE LAW TO BE ADMINISTERED EQUALLY TO ALL--

--OR SHALL THE LAW FAIL, AND THE VERY HEART OF ASGARD BE MADE FALSE?

NO.

FROM THIS DAY, THOR IS A PRINCE OF ASGARD NO LONGER. WE DENY HIM OUR COMPANY, OUR HOMES, OUR HELP AND OUR WORDS.

AND THUS DENY HIM ASGARD ITSELF.

HE SHALL NOT SET FOOT ON ASGARD ON PAIN OF DEATH, AND LET DEATH COME TO ANY WHO ASSIST HIM IN SO DOING.

"THOR...IS HENCEFORTH BANISHED, FOR ALL TIME."

I KNOW THE WEIGHT OF THE BURDEN MUST BE HEAVY, MY LORD BALDER. BUT IT WAS RIGHT, AND PROPER, AND BEST DONE SWIFTLY IF IT WERE TO BE DONE AT ALL.

THOUGH I DO BELIEVE THERE MAY HAVE BEEN SOME CONFUSION TO THOR'S PLIGHT, IT DOES SEEM STRANGE THAT HE HAS SLAIN HIS GRANDFATHER AND EXILED HIS FATHER TO THE WORLD-BETWEEN.

ONE MIGHT THINK HE ***WANTED*** THEM OUT OF THE WAY, TO MAKE SECURE HIS CLAIM TO THE THRONE OF ASGARD.

AND IF ***THAT*** WERE TRUE, THEN BALDER'S LIFE IS MADE MUCH SAFER BY HIS ABSENCE.

SPEAK THUS AGAIN OF THOR, WHO FOR EONS UNCOUNTED HAS BEEN MY FRIEND, MY LORD, AND MY BROTHER--

--AND NEXT TIME I DRAW MY BLADE, IT WILL NOT STOP ON THIS SIDE OF YOUR FLESH.

OF COURSE, MY LORD BALDER. I MERELY WISHED TO CONSOLE YOUR LOSS WITH SOBER REALITIES--

THIS YOU HAVE DONE.

NOW REMOVE YOURSELF FROM MY SIGHT.

AND TAKE YOUR BLACK TONGUE WITH YOU.

"IT IS TERRIBLE TO SEE HIM GRIEVE SO."

AS HEAVY AS THE LOSS OF THOR IS THE WEIGHT OF THIS PLACE, THIS LAND, SO UNLIKE OUR OWN. DRY. HOT. BARREN.

FLAT.

HE MIGHT FARE BETTER IN MORE FAMILIAR CLIMES...TO WALK IN SNOW AND COLD, TO HUNT AND CLIMB...TO LET HIS ARM AND HIS ARMOR WIN THE DAY AGAINST WOLF AND--

WHAT'S THE POINT OF WISHING, LOKI? THERE IS NO SUCH PLACE WHERE WE WOULD BE WELCOME.

AH, AND THERE YOU ARE WRONG. I KNOW OF JUST SUCH A LAND, FULL OF SNOW-CAPPED MOUNTAINS AND FAIR GAME, WHERE HE AND WE COULD HUNT AND VENTURE FORTH ON MISSIONS OF GREATNESS... A LAND OF STEEPLED CASTLES AND SMALL VILLAGES.

I HAVE SPOKEN TO THE KING OF THIS LAND, AND HE HAS INVITED ALL OF US--

--ALL OF US--

--TO MOVE FROM THIS DESOLATE PLACE TO HIS COUNTRY. HE WILL MAKE US WELCOME, AND GIVE US ALL WE REQUIRE.

I WOULD MENTION IT MYSELF TO LORD BALDER, BUT IT WOULD, I THINK, BE SERVED BEST IF IT CAME FROM OTHERS.

WE CANNOT MOVE ASGARD ITSELF, FOR ONLY THOR HAD THAT POWER, BUT WITHIN A MONTH WE COULD ALL BE IN THIS NEW LAND, AND THAT WOULD BE OUR NEW HOME, OUR NEW...ASGARD.

AND WHAT LAND IS THIS, LOKI? HOW CAN WE ASK BALDER TO LEAVE HERE AND GO THERE IF WE DO NOT KNOW WHERE *THERE* IS?

YOU'RE RIGHT, OF COURSE. FOOLISH OF ME TO HAVE FORGOTTEN TO SAY ITS NAME.

"IT IS THE KINGDOM OF LATVERIA.

"AND ITS KING, VICTOR VON DOOM."

DARK REIGN: THE CABAL

BY DANIEL ACUÑA

SEVERAL WEEKS AGO.
THE AFTERMATH OF THE FIRST MEETING OF NORMAN OSBORN'S CABAL.

ARE WE ALONE?
WE ARE.
WHAT'S THE MOVE HERE?

IT IS AS BEFORE. LET HIM SET US UP. HE WILL SOON IMPLODE. THEN WHEN ALL THIS IS OVER...

YOU'LL GET THE SEAS, I'LL GET THE LAND.

AND IF HE DOESN'T?

IT'S HIS NATURE. HE WILL.

BUT IF HE DOESN'T?

ONE YEAR LATER...

HAVE THINGS NOT GONE EXACTLY AS I PLANNED?

POWER. WEALTH. ***REVENGE***. HAVE I NOT GIVEN YOU EVERYTHING I SAID I WOULD?

PERHAPS IF I HAD FALLEN SHORT ON MY PROMISES, ***PERHAPS THEN*** I WOULD NOT BE AGGRIEVED THAT YOU TWO ARE THE ONLY ONES WILLING TO SHOW UP WHEN I CALL A MEETING.

WE LACK A DEMON, A GODDESS AND A WITCH...

I'LL DEAL WITH THEM LATER.

PERHAPS THEY'VE GROWN TIRED OF CERTAIN COMPANY, OSBORN.

A SENTIMENT I *SHARE*, VICTOR.

AND IN THAT SPIRIT I'VE DECIDED TO MAKE SOME *CHANGES* TO OUR SPECIAL LITTLE CLUB...

...A SMALL SHIFT IN THE POWER STRUCTURE.

HEY, WHEN DID DOOM START WEARING RED?

THIS?

IT WAS A *GIFT*...

"...FROM THE HOOD."

AS WAS THIS.

WE'RE DOING THIS NOW?

I WILL WAIT NO LONGER.

UNGRATEFUL...

DEAL WITH THIS.

WHAT?

THEY ARE GONE.

ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE UNIVERSE.

ALL THE HEAVENS IN BETWEEN US, AND NOW, SO MUCH LESS BETWEEN YOU AND I.

ONE OF THESE DAYS I'M GOING TO LEARN THAT THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS GOOD HELP.

AND BESIDES, I DO LOVE GETTING MY OWN HANDS DIRTY.

UGGHFFF!

NAMOR... NAMOR, I GAVE YOU BACK YOUR KINGDOM.

YES. YES, YOU DID, NORMAN... I THANK YOU FOR THAT.

BUT MY ALLEGIANCE LIES WITH DOOM.

CHUUUNKK!

YOU'RE WEARING THE DEMON'S CLOAK, SO I ASSUME YOU HANDLED THE HOOD...

YES.

AND WHAT OF THE WOMEN?

THEY ARE WHERE THEY *BELONG.*

"DOOM."

HMMM?

YOU'RE IGNORING ME, DOCTOR?

MY APOLOGIES, NAMOR. OUR MEETING...

MY THOUGHTS WANDER.

I'M SURE.

YOU AND YOUR GREAT DREAMS...

SOMETIMES, VICTOR, I WONDER WHATEVER GOES ON IN THAT MIND OF YOURS.

DOOM.

ALWAYS DOOM.

...AND I'LL GET THE LAND

HOW I SURVIVED APOCALYPTIC FIRE

IT WAS TUESDAY. ANOTHER STUPID BLOODY BORING *TUESDAY.*

I WAS AWAKE AND WISHED TO PUNISH THE WORLD FOR IT; INSTEAD I STARTED THE DAILY SLOG THROUGH THAT MORNING'S *TELEPATHY PERIOD.*

I SAID SOMETHING DUMB AND BITCHY MASQUERADING AS CLEVER AND NAUGHTY AND MEAN.

MY FIRST REFUGE WHEN I'VE GOT NOTHING *ELSE* TO SAY.

AND THAT'S WHEN THAT--

*--IT'S OKAY, EMMA, YOU DIDN'T LIKE HER AND YOU CAN **THINK** IT--SHE'S DEAD NOW AND IT CAN'T HURT HER--*

--THAT'S WHEN THAT *HORRIBLE LITTLE GIRL* WITH THE BAD BLACK CLOTHES AND THE *LONG DUMB NAME* THAT ALWAYS SMELLED OF SOUP SAID...

MISS FROST...

I WAS TEACHING A *CLASS* ON THE ISLAND OF GENOSHA ON THE DAY THAT SOME *NIGHTMARE* OF A WOMAN UNLEASHED REMOTE-CONTROLLED *GENOCIDE.*

SIXTEEN MILLION MUTANTS DIED.

SEVEN OF THEM WERE MY STUDENTS.

IT WAS *NOT* THE FIRST TIME I'D LOST CHILDREN I'D PLEDGED TO TEACH.

KAVIER SCHOOL FOR FTED YUNGSTERS

THIS WAS *MASSACHUSETTS,* THEN.

MY SISTER ADRIENNE.

LONG-SIMMERING FAMILY BUSINESS *BLEW UP* IN MY FACE.

SHE INFILTRATED AND ATTACKED THE *ACADEMY* WHERE I WAS TRAINING THE NEXT *GENERATION* TO RISE UP AND STAND STRONG.

SHE KILLED A BOY NAMED SYNCH IN THE EXPLOSIONS.

SHE DIDN'T WANT *HIM,* THOUGH.

SHE JUST WANTED TO TAKE SOMETHING OF *MINE* SHE COULD NEVER HAVE.

WELL.

YOU CAN'T ALWAYS GET WHAT YOU WANT, DARLING.

AND I ALREADY KNEW IT WOULD TAKE MORE THAN BOMBS TO KILL ME.

IT FEELS LIKE IT WAS DECADES BEFORE *MASSACHUSETTS* BUT IT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN.

I WAS STILL INVOLVED WITH THE *HELLFIRE CLUB* AND WE WERE UNDER ATTACK.

I WAS TRYING TO BAIT THE *X-MEN* INTO HELPING ME.

GOD, HOW *IRONIC.*

I WAS ONLY INVOLVED SO...

SO I COULD TEACH THE CHILDREN. XAVIER'S SCHOOL WAS SO...UPPITY, SO *ELITE* AND CLOSED.

WHERE ELSE-- *WHO* ELSE--WAS TRYING TO TEACH YOUNG MUTANTS HOW TO USE THEIR GIFTS AND DEFEND THEMSELVES?

SOME-TIMES...

(THEY'RE GONE, EMMA. YOU CAN THINK IT.)

SOMETIMES I FORGET WHAT THEY LOOKED LIKE.

THEY WERE KILLED.

SENTINELS.

I LOOK BACK ON MY LIFE AND ALL I SEE IS THE SAME HORRIBLE PATTERN REPEATING ITSELF.

THE SAME CATASTROPHE, *ENDLESSLY RESURRECTING.*

WHICH BRINGS US TO: JEAN GREY.

THE MOST GIFTED PSYCHIC I'D EVER ENCOUNTERED--

--I'D NEVER SAY IT TO THE COW'S FACE BUT IT WAS TRUE--

--AND ONE DAY I UPSET HER SO MUCH THAT JEAN KILLED ME. THE PHOENIX KILLED ME.

THE PHOENIX WAS JEAN; JEAN WASN'T THE PHOENIX. THERE'S A DIFFERENCE.

AND I HAD MADE THE PHOENIX MAD. SO I WAS...

CLEANSED.

IT SHATTERED MY MIND AND LEFT ME GIBBERING AND INCONTINENT FOR... GOD, MONTHS.

I REBUILT MYSELF ONE NEURON AT A TIME.

I SURVIVED ALL THE TRAGEDY AND FIRE THAT FOLLOWED, BECAUSE I'D ALREADY BEEN INCINERATED BY THE BEST.

AND HOW DID I SURVIVE THE BEST?

BECAUSE, DARLING, I CAME FROM THE VERY ***WORST.***

OH, WE WERE RICH AND PRIVILEGED AND ALL OF THAT, THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN.

BUT MY FAMILY-- OH, MY FAMILY.

MY FAMILY WAS A BLAST FURNACE NO ONE COULD SURVIVE.

A FACTORY MADE UP OF PARTS DESIGNED TO DESTROY ONE ANOTHER.

A MIRACLE OF FAMILIAL THERMODYNAMICS. A PERPETUAL MISERY MACHINE.

MY MOTHER AND BROTHER NARCOTIZED AND COUNTER-NARCOTIZED INTO USELESSNESS.

THE FROST GIRLS, THEN, WERE LEFT TO TEAR ONE ANOTHER APART...

...FOR ***HIM.*** DEAREST DADDY, SETTING US AGAINST ONE ANOTHER, LOOKING FOR AN ***HEIR*** WORTHY OF HIS CRUEL APPROVAL AND LIMITLESS BANK ACCOUNT.

HE CHOSE ME; I CHOSE TO ***LEAVE HOME.*** I'D ALREADY GOTTEN EVERYTHING I'D EVER NEED FROM HIM:

NAMELY, THE ***FROST WILL.***

WILL TO POWER.

WILL TO THRIVE.

UNBEATABLE, UNBREAKABLE. PERFECT LIKE A SNOWFLAKE, STRONG LIKE A DIAMOND.

THE WILL TO LIVE.

THE WILL TO TEACH.

THE WILL TO TEACH CHILDREN--TO TEACH MUTANT CHILDREN, LIKE ME--HOW TO FIND...

...SOMEWHERE, WITHIN THEMSELVES...

...THE WILL TO DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO SURVIVE.

TO SAVE AND PROTECT THOSE WHO CAN'T SAVE AND PROTECT THEMSELVES...

FROM WHATEVER APOCALYPSE IN WHICH THEY MIGHT FIND THEMSELVES.

XXX

DVD VIDEO

...PROTECTION FROM WHATEVER FIRES...

...FROM WHATEVER FLAMES...

...NO MATTER HOW PAINFUL...

NO MATTER HOW THEY GOT THERE.

THIS IS HOW IT'S GOING TO BE.

AND FROM WHATEVER HELLS THEY FIND THEMSELVES BURNING IN.

THAT'S HOW I SURVIVED.

TIME AND TIME AGAIN, THAT'S MY SECRET.

I SURVIVED BECAUSE I WILLED IT TO BE.

TIME AND TIME AGAIN I'VE SEEN TYRANTS CRUSH THE POWERLESS.

I'VE ***BEEN*** CRUSHED BY THEM MYSELF.

HOW DID I SURVIVE APOCALYPTIC FIRE?

I SIMPLY REFUSED TO FEEL THE FLAMES.

END.

Hell's Kitchen, NYC.

ONE DAY OUR SUN WILL CONSUME THE EARTH.

AS A BOY I SUFFERED FROM AN ***UNHEALTHY*** OBSESSION WITH THIS CONCEPT.

IF EVERYTHING IS GOING TO BE ERASED-- WHAT IN THIS WORLD ***REALLY*** MATTERS?

IT MAKES LIFE FEEL... ***INSIGNIFICANT.***

BUT HERE, TODAY, AS WE MOURN THE LOSS OF ONE OF OUR OWN, WE SEE THE SIGNIFICANCE OF EVEN ***ONE*** LIFE LOST.

IT SERVES TO PULL BACK THE VEIL WE USE TO KEEP OUR INEVITABLE MORTALITY HIDDEN, OUT OF MIND.

WITH THIS CURTAIN DRAWN BACK, WE SEE OUR OWN LIVES WITH A FLEETING CLARITY.

WE ARE REMINDED THAT LIFE IS NOT A DRESS REHEARSAL...

...AND THIS IS OUR ***ONE*** SHOT AT GETTING IT RIGHT.

PARKER, WHAT KIND OF CONCRETE CUTTING HAPPENS AT ***3 A.M.?***

OPEN UP, SWEETHEART. HERE COMES THE CHOO-CHOO.

THEY'RE PLANNING THE JOBS AT NIGHT TO AVOID TRAFFIC CONGESTION, SARA.

HOW IS IT WITH ALL OF THESE LATE NIGHT CONSTRUCTION JOBS I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU WITH ONE SINGLE TOOL?

OKAY.

I'LL MAKE THE MONEY THAT KEEPS THIS ROOF OVER YOUR HEAD BUT I DON'T HAVE TO SIT HERE AS YOU QUESTION HOW I MAKE IT.

IS THIS WHERE I GET THE SPEECH ABOUT HOW YOU DO IT *ALL FOR US*, PARKER?

IF YOU WANT TO DO SOMETHING *FOR US*, HOW ABOUT SPENDING MORE THAN A *FEW HOURS* A WEEK AT HOME?

DOES THAT NOT SEEM LIKE THE SORT OF THING A LOVING AND DEVOTED FATHER *MIGHT* DO?

Gaaba

SEE YA.

IT'S IMPORTANT TO TAKE STOCK OF WHAT WE HAVE.

UNFORTUNATELY, IT OFTEN TAKES LOSING SOMEONE CLOSE TO US TO DO SO.

AS I STAND HERE LOOKING AT OUR COALITION -- I *TRULY* APPRECIATE ALL THAT WE'VE ACCOMPLISHED TOGETHER.

THIS UNION *MUST NOT* BE TAKEN FOR GRANTED.

THERE IS ONE AMONG US WHO WOULD *ABUSE* OUR TRUST TO FULFILL *PERSONAL* AGENDAS.

THE SAME *TRAITOR* WHO MURDERED OUR BROTHER.

WHO WOULD *DARE* BETRAY YOU -- THE HOOD -- *UNQUESTIONED* KINGPIN OF CRIME?

DON'T WORRY, MADAME MASQUE...

"...HE OR *SHE* WILL BE DISCOVERED... AND *DEALT* WITH."

SLAMM

WHOA!

YOU'RE BACK EARLY, BOSS.

BUSINESS WENT WELL, I TAKE IT?

SAM, YOU'RE A GOOD GUY, A REAL ASSET TO THE FAMILY.

BUT I NEED YOU TO REMEMBER YOUR PLACE--

--I NEED YOU TO REMEMBER HOW IMPORTANT IT IS YOU NEVER TELL *ANYONE* WHERE YOU TAKE ME.

NO WORRIES...

"...MY MUG IS SEALED LIKE A SAFE, BOSS."

WHAT IS ALL OF THIS IF NOT A *FAMILY*? WHAT *ARE* WE?

SCURRYING RATS CLIMBING OVER EACH OTHER, LOST IN A PRIMAL NEED TO COMPETE, TO ESTABLISH DOMINANCE?

WE HAVE *EVOLVED* FROM THIS WAY OF THINKING.

WE WORK TOGETHER, LIVING LIFE BY OUR *OWN* STANDARDS, NOT THOSE *IMPOSED* ON US.

AND THE MOST *VITAL* OF THOSE STANDARDS...

"...NOTHING COMES BEFORE THE FAMILY."

GET ME BACK TO THE BAR, SAM.

GET OUT OF THE CAR, YOU SON-OF-A- @#$%&!

KLAM KLAM

WHAT IS THIS, PARKER? WHERE THE HELL DID YOU GET THE MONEY FOR THIS?!

DAMN IT, SARA, WHAT ARE YOU DOING? WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME?

I WANT THE TRUTH!

NO MORE LIES -- NO MORE OF THIS DAMN SHADOW YOU KEEP ME IN.

YOU NEED TO TRUST ME! FOR ONCE YOU NEED TO TELL ME THE TRUTH!!

HERE'S THE TRUTH.

YOU ASK ME ABOUT MY WORK, EVER AGAIN...

"...I'll leave you."

THE BOND OF OUR FAMILY IS *DEEP*...

BUT IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN THAT INTEGRITY THERE HAS TO BE AN *UNWAVERING* FOCUS ON SOLIDARITY.

WHEN ONE OF US DIES, *WE ALL DIE.*

WE ALL LOSE THAT PART OF OURSELVES.

ONCE IN OUR FAMILY, YOU BECOME BROTHER, SISTER, MOTHER AND FATHER...

"...YOU ARE BLOOD FOR LIFE."

THAT'S YOUR OL' LADY? SHE'S WICKED PISSED, HUH?

HA--ALL THESE MONTHS I'VE BEEN DRIVING YOU AROUND AND I DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD A FAMILY.

SHE'S A *LOOKER*. THAT YOUR KID SHE HAD WITH 'ER?

MY *DAUGHTER.*

YEAH, IT'S A GRIND, BROTHER. I GOT THREE LITTLE ONES MYSELF.

SEEMS LIKE THERE'S A NEW CATASTROPHE EVERY DAY.

BUT IT'S *WORTH* IT, YEAH? I MEAN WHAT ELSE IS LIFE ABOUT IF NOT FAMILY?

DRIVE ME TO THE RIVER, SAM. GOT SOME THINKING TO DO.

YOU'LL LIKE THIS SPOT, BOSS. IT'S REAL NICE.

LET'S GO HAVE A LITTLE LIQUID MEDICATION, WHADDA YA SAY, SAM?

THOUGHT YOU'D NEVER ASK.

I TELL YA, IT HAPPENS TO US ALL.

FIGHTIN' OVER -- ***WHATEVER*** -- IT DON'T MATTER. JUST ONE OF THE DIFFICULTIES THAT COME WITH FAMILY.

HARD AS IT IS, YOU'D STILL DO ANYTHING FOR 'EM. ***DIE*** FOR 'EM, EVEN.

YOU DO ***ANYTHING*** YOU HAVE TO BUT YOU KEEP 'EM ***SAFE***.

YEAH.

IT ALL COMES WITH SACRIFICE.

NOTHING IS FREE IN THIS LIFE... NOTHING WORTH HAVING.

MY FRIEND SAM WAS MURDERED IN *COLD BLOOD.*

"SHOT IN THE BACK OF HIS HEAD BY A *CRAVEN COWARD* WHO LACKED THE HONOR TO LOOK HIS *VICTIM* IN THE *EYE.*"

SAM DIDN'T DESERVE TO DIE.

MAYBE HE LEARNED THE WRONG SECRET, OR TRUSTED THE WRONG PERSON.

A MISTAKE WE SHOULD--*ALL OF US*--BE CAREFUL NOT TO REPEAT.

FAMILY TRUST

RICK REMENDER
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Follow Parker Robbins' Descent Into Darkness In
DARK REIGN: THE HOOD!

The Judgment of Namor

THIS COURT NOW... RECLINES.

I WARN YOU: EVEN THIS STRAINS MY PATIENCE.

EXPLAIN WHY THIS LEGAL KNOT REQUIRES YOUR MONARCH TO UNTANGLE IT.

IT'S BECAUS--

NO, YOU CAN WAIT. HIM FIRST.

MY LORD: IT'S A SIMPLE MATTER OF CUSTODY BETWEEN PROCTIDAE AND I.

I'M ASHAMED THIS HAS DISTURBED YOU.

"OUR MATRIMONY DISSOLVED IN HELLISH ACRIMONY SOME SIX YEARS PAST.

"IN THE COURT'S WISDOM, SHE WAS AWARDED CUSTODY OF OUR SON, CROSTA."

THIS I REGRETFULLY ACCEPTED. WHILE I TRIED TO EXPLAIN HER IMMORAL NATURE, THE COURT THOUGHT AN ATLANTEAN MILITARY CAMP WOULD NOT SUIT SUCH A YOUNG CHILD.

KILLERS.

HAD I KNOWN THE TRUE EXTENT OF HER IRRESPONSIBILITY, I WOULD HAVE FOUGHT ALL THE HARDER!

MELODRAMATIC RHETORIC IS A ROYAL PREROGATIVE.

HURRY ALONG.

"I RECENTLY DISCOVERED THAT AFTER ATLANTIS' DESTRUCTION, RATHER THAN JOIN SLEEPER CELLS IN HUMAN SOCIETY, SHE CONTINUED TO LIVE BENEATH THE SEAS."

IN DIRECT DISOBEDIENCE TO YOUR WISHES.

HE IS NO LONGER A CHILD. SHE HAS PROVED HERSELF AN UNSUITABLE MOTHER.

I DEMAND CUSTODY.

YES--THAT SEEMS LOGICAL ENOUGH.

BUT WHAT I DON'T UNDERSTAND IS...IT WAS *YOU*, WOMAN, WHO REQUESTED ROYAL FIAT.

DO YOU THINK YOUR KING FOND OF REBELLION?

PERHAPS YOU THOUGHT YOU COULD WIN MY FAVOR BY SPITTING IN MY FACE? TWEAKING THE REGAL EARLOBE? MOCKING MY CHOICE IN VESTMENTS?

I HAD NO CHOICE, MY LORD.

THIS IS MY SON.

EVEN THOSE APES WOULD HAVE NOTICED SOMETHING WAS *DIFFERENT* ABOUT ME.

HMM. YOUR POINT IS PLAIN.

THEN YOU KNOW THAT MY MOTH--

YOUR WORDS ARE NOT REQUIRED.

YOUR SON'S NATURE EXPLAINS YOUR DISOBEDIENCE, BUT DOES NOT EXCUSE EITHER IT OR YOUR SECRECY.

WHY NOT-- SAY--LIVE IN LATVERIA, WITH THE MILITARY?

MY SON'S APPEARANCE IS... ONLY PART OF HIS CHANGE.

"HE AWOKE TO FIND HIMSELF...LIKE HE IS.

"I SCREAMED. I WISH I HADN'T, BUT I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT AND... I WISH I HADN'T.

"HE RAN TO A MIRROR. AND THEN...

"WHEN DISTRESSED, HE CREATES DIRECTED SHOCKWAVES.

"THEY'RE... EXPLOSIVE."

I CAN CONTROL IT.

HE CAN CONTROL IT...MOSTLY. SO WE MOVED AWAY. WHEN YOU ORDERED EVERYONE TO HIDE AMONGST THE HUMANS...WE STAYED WHERE WE WERE.

BECAUSE IF OPISTHO DISCOVERED WHAT CROSTA COULD DO, HE AND THE MILITARY WOULD HAVE TRIED TO TURN HIM INTO A KILLING MACHINE. AND I WAS RIGHT.

AND IT IS ONLY RIGHT THAT SUCH POWER SHOULD BE TEMPERED FOR ATLANTIS' GREATER SERVICE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

SHE THINKS *ALL* WARRIORS KILLING MACHINES! CROSTA NEEDS TO BE ***TRAINED.*** THAT POWER NEEDS TO BE HARNESSED! ***LEASHED!***

TRAINED INTO A KILLER LIKE ***YOU.*** A ***MONSTER*** LIKE YOU. HE IS A ***BOY.***

HE'S LOST SO MUCH. YOU CAN'T TAKE THE REST AWAY FROM HIM.

I BELIEVE IT'S TRADITIONAL TO SETTLE SUCH CASES BY THREATENING TO CUT THE CHILD IN TWO, AND THEN WATCHING YOUR REACTION.

I DON'T FEEL LIKE THAT.

I FEEL LIKE CUTTING THE PAIR OF YOU IN TWO.

YOU: IN YOUR FEAR, YOU ONLY ENDANGERED THE BOY. ALONE IN THE SEAS? AWAY FROM ALL HELP, ALL SECURITY, WITH A POWER HE NEITHER UNDERSTANDS NOR FULLY CONTROLS?

YOU'RE LUCKY TO BE HERE TO RECEIVE MY WRATH.

YOU: YOUR FERVOR HAS SLID INTO FANATICISM. AN ATLANTEAN CHILD IS NOT AN ANIMAL TO BE "TRAINED" OR "HARNESSED."

HE IS A CITIZEN. HE IS *MY* CITIZEN. WE DO NOT TURN CHILDREN INTO WARRIORS.

UNTIL THE BOY COMES OF AGE, HE WILL BE MY WARD.

NAMOR HAS SPOKEN.

NO.

NAMOR DOES NOT SPEAK TWICE.

NO!

POWERFUL... YET A CHILD.

YOU PROVE BOTH YOUR PARENTS CORRECT.

AAAAH!

THOUGH WHILE I UNDERSTAND RAGE, THEY HAVE FAILED TO TEACH YOU PROPER RESPECT.

YOU ARE GOING TO A SCHOOL IN SAN FRANCISCO.

THERE, YOU WILL BE *TAUGHT* WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A MUTANT AND HOW TO LIVE WITH YOUR GIFTS. YOU WILL GROW AND BECOME THE MAN YOU SHOULD BE.

BUT I WANT MY...

CEASE. YOUR WANTS MATTER NOT.

AS MY SUBJECT, OBEDIENCE IS YOUR DUTY TO ME.

AS YOUR KING, MY DUTY TO *YOU* IS TO GIVE YOU WHAT'S BEST.

TO GIVE YOU WHAT'S BEST, WHETHER YOU LIKE IT OR NOT.

AND IN THAT MATTER, THIS COURT NEVER RESTS.

END

WEEKS AGO. LATVERIA.

MY FOOD HAS BEEN POISONED.

EXCELLENT.

IT SHOWS YOU TAKE MY VISIT TO LATVERIA SERIOUSLY.

THE TOXINS ARE NOTHING THAT SHOULD TROUBLE A GOD FROM ASGARD.

IT IS WELL YOU FORE-WARNED ME OF THE CHANGE IN YOUR APPEARANCE.

YET SURELY A SORCERER OF LOKI'S REPUTATION COULD APPEAR IN ANY GUISE HE SO WISHED?

BUT THAT WOULD BE TRICKERY. PRETENSE.

AND THERE SHOULD BE NO PRETENSE AMONG PARTNERS.

DOOM IS NO MAN'S PARTNER.

I CONSIDER ***OSBORN'S CABAL*** MORE OF AN... ASSOCIATION.

STRICTLY SPEAKING, I'M NOT A MAN.

NOR AM I REFERRING TO THAT AUGUST BODY, ***THE CABAL.***

VICTOR, I'M SUGGESTING A ***NEW*** PARTNERSHIP, BETWEEN YOU AND--

KLUNK

HOLD.

HEAR THAT NOISE? IT MEANS THIS ROOM HAS NOW BEEN SEALED.

THE WALLS AND DOORS ARE NINE INCHES OF HARDENED STEEL.

VERY SECURE, I'M SURE.

BY THE WAY, THE LOCAL CUISINE IS DELICIOUS.

FWOSH

THE DEVILED FISH REALLY ***IS*** OUTSTANDING.

THE SPICES REMIND ME OF WHAT YOU MIGHT FIND IN *NIDAVELLIR.*

THOSE DWARVES ARE FIENDISH IN MATTERS OF GASTRONOMY, AS THEY ARE IN MOST THINGS THEY PUT THEIR TWISTED LITTLE MINDS TO.

Y-YOUR LORDSHIP, PLEASE. IF YOU HAVE THE POWER TO ESCAPE FROM THIS PLACE, DO SO NOW AND SAVE US.

WE HAVE WIVES, CHILDREN...

MOST OF ALL, THOSE DWARVES ARE RENOWNED FOR THEIR LOVE OF CURRY. BLISTERINGLY HOT CURRY. THEY ARE ***SLAVES*** TO THE STUFF.

PROBABLY HELPS REMOVE THE BITTER TASTE THEY ALWAYS SEEM TO HAVE IN THEIR MOUTHS.

AAAGH!

Hmm.

WELL, DON'T MIND ME.

I'M USED TO TALKING TO MYSELF.

I PRESUME YOU'RE WATCHING THIS, DOOM.

ARE YOU *CONVINCED* YET?

AN IMMUNITY TO POISON AND PAIN. A CALLOUS DISREGARD FOR HUMAN LIFE.

I AM WILLING TO CONCEDE THAT YOU ARE LOKI. MAKE YOUR WAY THROUGH THE LOCKED DOOR.

KKKH

WELCOME TO LATVERIA, LOKI.

DOOM.

I TAKE IT IT'S ACTUALLY YOU THIS TIME?

YOU MIGHT CONSIDER MY PRECAUTIONS EXCESSIVE.

A LITTLE HEAVY-HANDED, PERHAPS--

--BUT QUITE UNDERSTANDABLE.

I AM A BUSY MAN, LOKI.

YOU SAID YOU WISHED TO SEE ME ON A MATTER OF SOME IMPORTANCE.

A *PROPOSAL*, DOOM.

ONE THAT WILL BE MUTUALLY ***BENEFICIAL.***

LONG HAVE I SOUGHT TO ASSUME MY RIGHTFUL POSITION AS RULER OF ASGARD.

IF YOUR AMBITIONS DO NOT INTERFERE WITH MY OWN PLANS, I WILL NOT IMPEDE YOU.

EVEN PROUD LATVERIA HAS BEEN PREY TO ATTACK. MIGHT NOT AN ALLIANCE WITH A POWERFUL FRIEND BE A USEFUL BULWARK AGAINST FUTURE MOLESTATION?

PERHAPS... UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.

Oh, THE CIRCUMSTANCES CAN BE WHATEVER YOU WANT THEM TO BE.

IF YOU WOULD ASSIST ME IN MY AMBITIONS.

GET ONE THING CLEAR, GOD.

DOOM DOES NOT ASSIST OTHERS. ***OTHERS*** ASSIST ***DOOM.***

IF THAT IS ALL YOU HAVE TRAVELED TO LATVERIA TO SAY, YOU HAVE HAD A WASTED JOURNEY. AND ***I*** HAVE WASTED ONE OF MY ***DOOMBOTS.***

THE ASGARDIANS ARE NOT WANTED IN OKLAHOMA. THEY TIRE OF THE DESERT. THEY DREAM OF MORE TEMPERATE CLIMES...LIKE ASGARD OF OLD.

I AM QUITE SURE THEY COULD BE PERSUADED TO ABANDON THEIR PRESENT HOME.

WITH YOUR AGREEMENT, THE ASGARDIANS MIGHT EMIGRATE TO *LATVERIA*.

IT WILL TAKE MORE THAN *MY* AGREEMENT.

YOU MEAN ODIN? OLD ONE-EYE IS YESTERDAY'S GOD. A RELIC.

BALDER WOULD NEED CONVINCING, OF COURSE. BUT THOUGH BRAVE AND GOOD, BALDER IS WEAK.

AND, SADLY, NOT QUITE AS INTELLIGENT AS HE BELIEVES HIMSELF TO BE.

THE PURPOSE OF THIS MIGRATION?

I'M COMING TO THAT.

BY EMPTYING OR DIVIDING ASGARD, I WILL FINALLY BE IN A POSITION--

--TO BECOME ABSOLUTE RULER?

IT HAS A PLEASANT RING TO IT, HAS IT NOT?

YOU HAVEN'T MENTIONED THOR.

OR ARE YOU SUGGESTING I THROW OPEN MY DOOR AND INVITE MY OLD ENEMY INTO MY HOUSE?

Oh, I HAVE PLANS FOR THOR.

HE WILL BE REMOVED. HE WILL BE...

...NEUTERED.

I SEE WHAT *YOU* MIGHT HAVE TO GAIN BY THIS, LOKI.

BUT WHAT OF DOOM?

YOU ARE SUPREME RULER OF YOUR OWN STATE. YOU ARE FEARED. YOU ARE THE MIGHTY VICTOR VON DOOM.

BUT THERE IS ONE THING THAT YOU LACK.

I THINK I CAN HELP YOU GET IT.

LATVERIA IS NOT SO VERY DIFFERENT FROM ASGARD.

THEY SHOULD FEEL QUITE AT HOME HERE.

DINNER WITH DOOM

PETER MILLIGAN - WRITER
TONCI ZONJIC - ARTIST
BLAMBOT'S NATE PIEKOS - LETTERER
ALEJANDRO ARBONA - ASSISTANT EDITOR
WARREN SIMONS - EDITOR

SEE THOR #601 FOR WHAT'S HAPPENING NEXT!

DARK REIGN: THE LIST — AVENGERS

BY MARKO DJURDJEVIC

AVENGERS TOWER.

OSBORN.

ARES. GOOD, GOOD...

WHO WERE YOU TALKING TO?

HMM? NO. I WAS TAKING NOTES. INTO THE ARMOR.

WHAT ARE WE DOING TODAY?

TODAY WE ARE MAKING A *LIST*.

A LIST OF THINGS IN THIS WORLD THAT NEED TO BE DIFFERENT THAN THE WAY THEY ARE.

THERE IS THE WAY THINGS *WERE* PRIOR TO US BEING IN CHARGE AND THERE IS THE WAY THINGS *SHOULD* BE NOW THAT WE ARE IN CHARGE.

LIKE?

THE MUTANT SITUATION, FOR EXAMPLE. IT WAS A PROBLEM. AND NOW WE'VE SOLVED THAT PROBLEM.

SO NOW I HAVE TO ASK MYSELF...

AND YOU...

WHY IS THE HULK STILL RUNNING AROUND DESTROYING EVERYTHING IN SIGHT?

WHY IS TONY STARK NOT IN JAIL FOR HIS WAR CRIMES?

WHY IS SPIDER-MAN ALLOWED TO WALK FREE?

WHY HASN'T THAT RENEGADE CLINT BARTON BEEN HUNTED DOWN AND TAKEN CARE OF? AND THE REST OF THOSE AVENGERS?

WHY IS NICK FURY ALLOWED TO SNEAK AROUND TRAINING YOUTH TERRORISTS?

THIS SOUNDS LIKE WHAT YOU WOULD CALL A HIT LIST.

NO.

I'M TALKING ABOUT CHANGING THE STATUS QUO BECAUSE AS FAR AS I CAN TELL, THE STATUS QUO, AS IT WAS UNDER NICK FURY AND TONY STARK AND THE AVENGERS BEFORE US...

...DOESN'T WORK.

IF IT WORKED, *I* WOULDN'T BE IN *CHARGE* NOW.

IF IT *WORKED*, THERE WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN A SUPERHUMAN CIVIL WAR OR A SKRULL INVASION OR A HULK ATTACK ON NEW YORK CITY...

AND THE SCARLET WITCH WOULD NOT HAVE LIVED LONG ENOUGH TO UNLEASH HER POWER ON THE WORLD AND WIPE OUT AN ENTIRE SPECIES.

WHEN DID *THAT* HAPPEN?

DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT IT.

THAT'S JUST ONE OF THE *MANY* HORRIFIC THINGS I WAS BRIEFED ON WHEN I GOT THIS JOB.

WE NEED A LIST.

BUT IT'S NOT A HIT LIST. IT'S A *TO DO* LIST. IT'S A *MUST DO* LIST.

OR REALLY, WHAT'S THE POINT OF EVEN TAKING THE GIG.

IT SEEMS YOU *ALREADY* HAVE A LIST.

NOW WE NEED A PLAN.

THE MUTANT X-MEN'S LAST DITCH EFFORT AT A HUMAN-FREE UTOPIA HAS BEEN DEEMED AN ACT OF TREASON BY NORMAN OSBORN.

THE NEWLY FORMED MUTANT ISLAND IS NOW BY ALL DEFINITIONS A MUTANT PRISON CAMP.

WE ARE STILL WAITING FOR OFFICIAL WORD FROM H.A.M.M.E.R., BUT OSBORN HAS MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE HAS A **ONE-STRIKE** POLICY AGAINST ANY AND ALL THREATS TO THE UNITED STATES.

SO WE HAVE TO IMAGINE THE X-MEN MUST POSE A **SERIOUS THREAT** TO OUR WAY OF LIFE.

NOW WE'RE NOT SURE EXACTLY **WHO** IS ON THE ISLAND OR HOW MANY OF OUR COUNTRY'S MUTANTS ARE--

AVENGERS HIDEOUT.

AND WITH THAT...

I **AM** GOING TO KILL NORMAN OSBORN.

STOP IT, BARTON.
WHO'S IN?
STOP.
I THOUGHT WE WENT THROUGH ALL THIS, CLINT.
SO WE'RE JUST GOING TO SIT HERE?
NO. WE'RE GOING TO *DO* SOMETHING.
WE GO TO THE X-ISLAND AND WE HELP OUR FRIENDS.
AND *THEN* WHAT? HOW DOES THAT SOLVE THE PROBLEM?
THERE IS SOMETHING TRULY EVIL AT THE *CORE* OF ALL THIS.
AND IT'S BEING ALLOWED TO RUN RAMPANT OVER OUR LIVES AND THE LIVES OF EVERY INNOCENT WOMAN, MAN AND CHILD IN THIS COUNTRY.
DON'T FORGET THE *PETS AND FARM ANIMALS!*
JOKES? THIS IS WHAT I AM GETTING??
WELL, I'M GETTING A BIG WHOMPIN', *HYSTERICAL NERVOUS BREAKDOWN* FROM YOU, IT ONLY SEEMS FAIR.
CLINT DOES MAKE A POINT.
HE MAKES A CASE FOR LEXAPRO.
LUKE CAGE IS INJURED. WOLVERINE IS STUCK ON THAT ISLAND.
WE'RE BEING PICKED OFF ONE BY ONE!!
HEY, LUKE'S WIFE AND KID ARE IN THE NEXT ROOM...
JESSICA SHOULD HAVE A VOTE HERE, BECAUSE SHE'D SIDE WITH *ME.*
AND GOD KNOWS WHAT'S *REALLY* GOING ON THERE. GOD *KNOWS* WHAT THE MEDIA ISN'T TELLING US.
IT'S THE SIMPLEST QUESTION AND IT'S RIGHT HERE IN FRONT OF US...
IF YOU COULD GO BACK IN TIME AND KILL HITLER, WOULDN'T YOU?

I DID.

YOU DID WHAT?

I, UH, I KILLED HITLER.

UM, WHAT WERE YOU SAYING?

OSBORN'S NOT HITLER.

REALLY? BECAUSE LOOK, THERE'S A MUTANT CONCENTRATION CAMP RIGHT THERE ON T.V.

AM I ALONE IN THIS? DO YOU ALL WANT TO GO KILL HIM?

I WANT TO.
BUT IT'S WRONG.
OBVIOUSLY.
WHAT'S OBVIOUS?
WHY'S IT OBVIOUS?
BECAUSE MURDERING IS WRONG.
IT'S IN THE TOP TEN OF WRONG.
AND KILLING HIM MIGHT NOT MAKE OUR LIVES ANY BETTER.
IT MAY NOT SOLVE THE BIGGER PROBLEM AND IT MAY NOT GET OUR FRIENDS BACK.

BABE...

I HAVE TO THINK ABOUT IT.

REALLY?

IT'S A BAD ROAD TO GO DOWN.

IN MOST CIRCUMSTANCES... YES. YES.

BUT THIS IS SOMETHING MORE *EXTREME.*

THIS IS THAT EXTREME SITUATION THAT--

YOU KILL HIM, AND LET'S SAY YOU'RE WRONG...

IT'S A MISTAKE YOU CAN'T TAKE BACK.

EVER.

HEY, MAN...

I TOLD YOU BEFORE...

IT'S EASY TO BE A GOOD GUY WHEN EVERYTHING IS HUNKY-DORY.
IT'S ANOTHER THING WHEN YOUR RESOLVE IS BEING TESTED.
AND YOUR RESOLVE IS BEING *TESTED*.
SO YOU'RE GOING TO SIT HERE AND DO *NOTHING*?!
WE'RE GOING TO MAKE A PLAN AND HELP OUR FRIENDS.
I VOTE WE GO TO SAN FRAN AND WE HELP OUR FRIENDS.
AND I VOTE WE *STOP HIDING*!!
WE WHACK THIS NUTJOB OSBORN LIKE *SPIDEY* SHOULD HAVE DONE IN HIGH SCHOOL AND WE *END* THIS MADNESS.
AND *THEN* WHAT?
AND THEN WHAT, *WHAT*?
THAT'S THE BEGINNING OF A PLAN. WHAT'S THE REST OF THE PLAN?
YEAH? WHAT'S THE REST OF THE PLAN AFTER WE GO TO SAN FRANCISCO?
I'M ASKING THAT TOO.
WELL, CAPTAIN AMERICA, WE SIT DOWN AND WE FIGURE ONE OUT.
I'M DONE SITTING.
WOW.
HE'S GONNA GET KILLED.
I'LL GO TALK TO HIM.

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

I TOLD YOU.

ALL BY YOURSELF?

IF I HAVE TO. AND I GUESS I HAVE TO.

I'LL COME.

BUT YOU DON'T WANT TO.

I'M NOT LETTING YOU GO OFF HALF-COCKED. IF YOU GOT YOURSELF KILLED I'D NEVER FORGIVE MYSELF.

ESPECIALLY AFTER *I* WENT TO ALL THE TROUBLE TO NOT BE DEAD ANYMORE.

I WANT YOU TO *BELIEVE* IN THIS.

I BELIEVE IN *YOU*. AND YOU'RE JUST GOING TO HAVE TO SETTLE FOR *THAT*.

WHAT'S THE PLAN, STAN?

WELL-- WE'LL START RECON IN THE MORNING.

THEN I CALL SNUGGLE TIME.

I'M SO MAD AT THEM.

FOCUS ON WHAT'S IN FRONT OF YOU. AND THANK ME FOR BEING SUPPORTIVE.

THANK YOU.

BETTER. NOT GREAT.

NOW OR NEVER.

FFIZZZZZZ

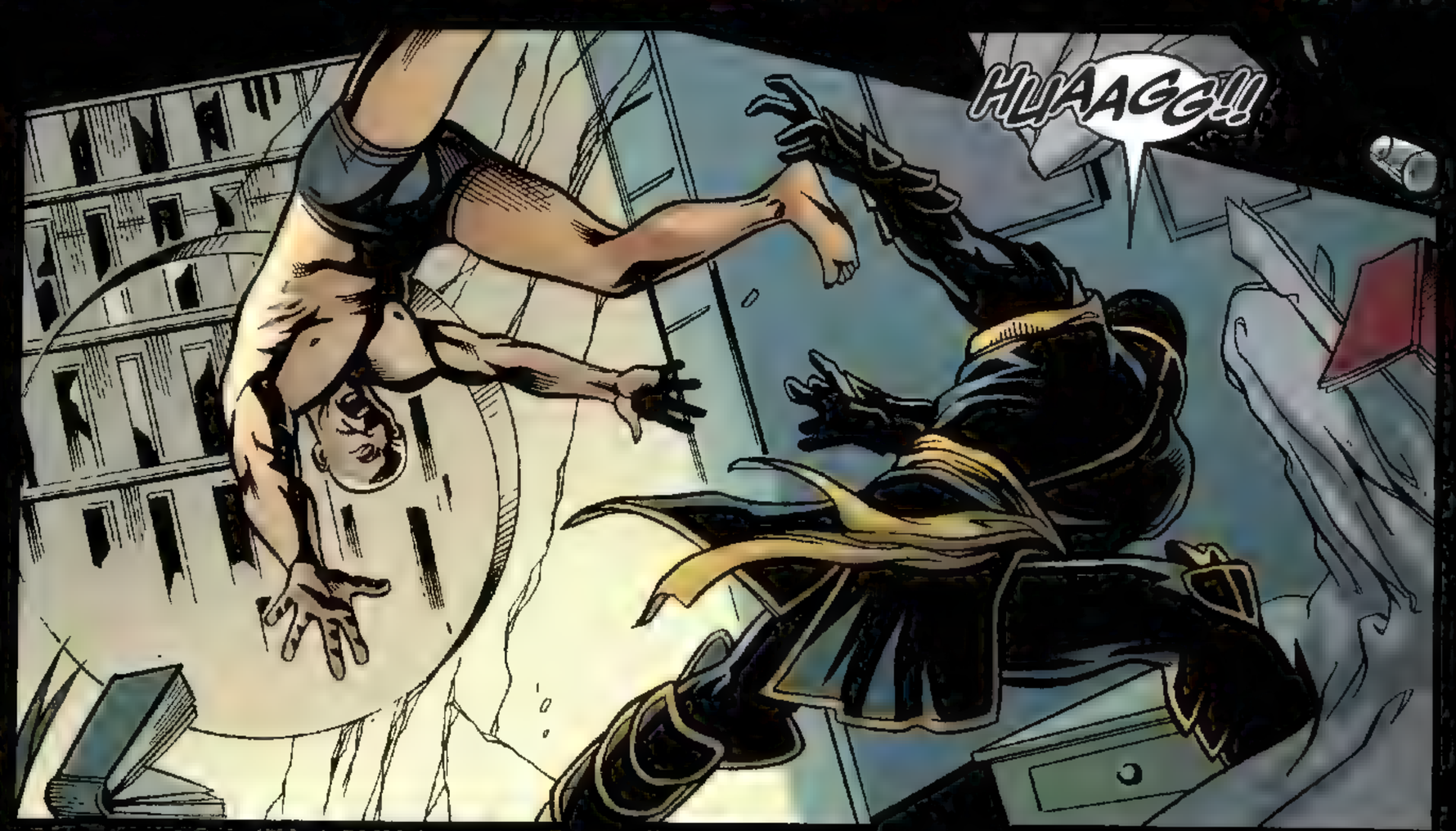
FFIZZZZZZ

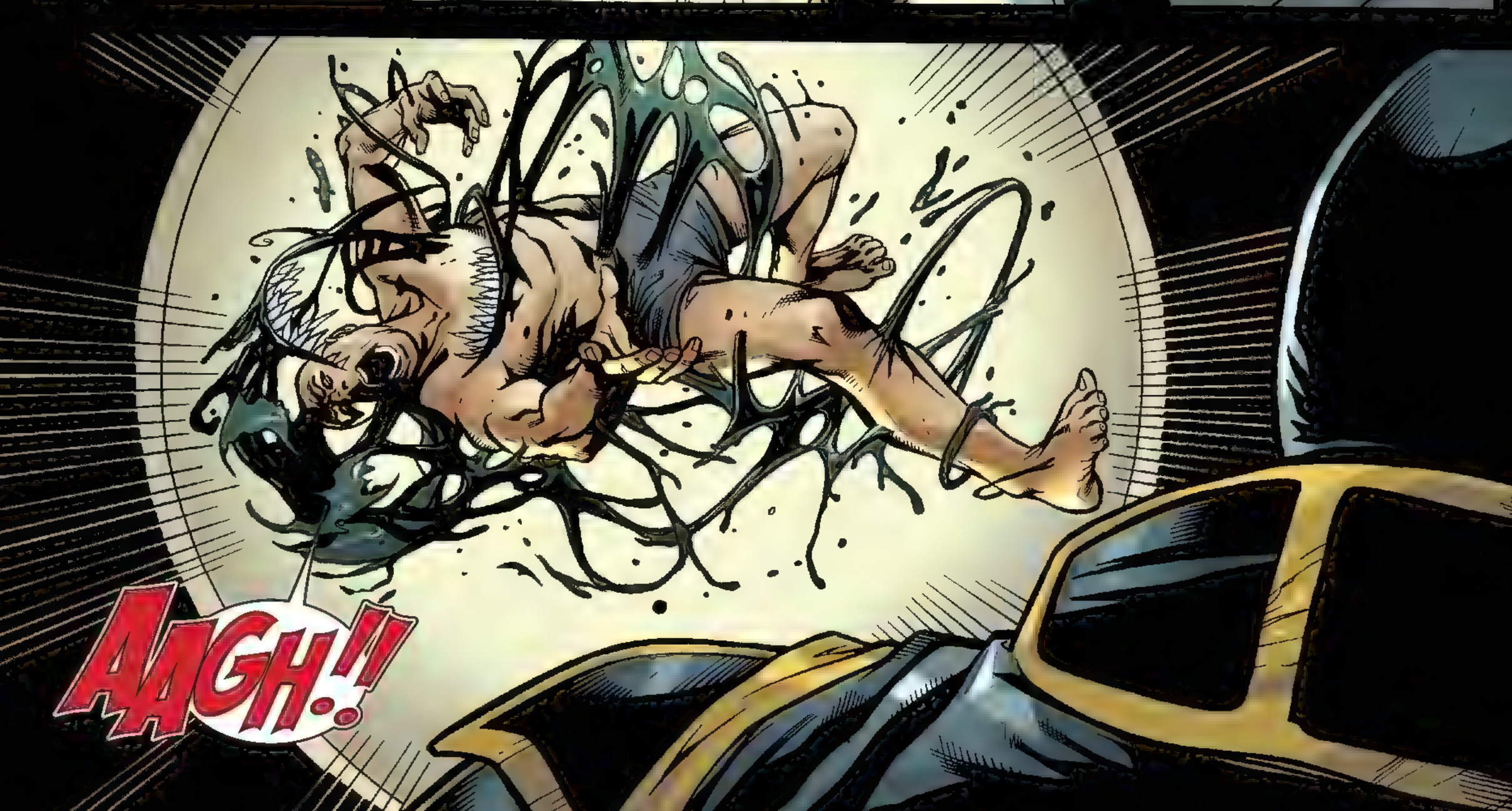
CHUCK
CHUCK
CHUCK
HUT.

RISE
FALL
MAXIM

MAXIM

WHAT THE--??!!


HUAAGG!!


AAGH!!

BOOM

THE HELL IS THAT?
OH! OH!
IT'S VENOM! VENOM TRIED TO ESCAPE!
@#$%! WHAT DO WE DO!!
PUT THE BUILDING IN LOCKDOWN! GET OSBORN!
IS OSBORN EVEN IN THE BUILDING??
WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, "HAWKEYE"...
BUDDA BUDDA
BUDDA BUDDA

SON OF A--

I WON'T LIE TO YOU, BULLSEYE, I ENJOYED THAT.

TOO BAD YOU'LL HEAL.

YOU WON'T.

CLINC

CLANG

HAAA!!

TANG

HA!

NO! NO, USE YOUR PERSONAL SECURITY NUMBER!

PUT THE CODE IN!

I HEARD YOU!

THEN DO IT!

YOU ARE NOT YOUR FATHER, DAKEN, I'LL TELL YOU THAT.

WHUMP

HHAAA!!

RRIPP

NOT AT ALL.

AGH!

CHUCK

WHACK

THIS IS AGENT DELPY IN AVENGERS TOWER LOBBY. OVER.

THIS IS OSBORN. WHAT ARE YOU DOING ON THE SECURITY MAINFRAME? WHO IS THIS?

WHAT'S THE SITUATION?

SIR, WE-WE-WE-WE--

SPEAK!

WE HAVE A BREACH!

HEY, KARLA.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

I'M GOING TO KILL YOUR BOSS. WANT TO HELP?

THAT *IS* TEMPTING.

GET YOUR MOONSTONE AND LET'S GO.

I CAN'T.

THAT *IS* YOU, BARTON, RIGHT?

YOU GONNA STAND IN MY WAY?

OR YOU GONNA LOOK THE OTHER WAY FOR OLD TIMES' SAKE?

HMMM...

BRING UP THE RESIDENTIAL FLOOR ON SERVER THREE.

SHOW ME HOW GARGAN EVEN GOT THROUGH THE DAMN FORTIFIED WINDOW THAT WAS--

SORRY. CAMERAS ARE WATCHING.

FSHAM

CLOSE THE RESIDENTIAL FLOOR!

LOCK IT DOWN!

CONTAINMENT FORCE FIELDS!

SECURITY LOCKDOWN!

YOU LUCKY SON OF A--

SECURITY LOCKDOWN!

SECURITY LOCKDOWN!

SECURITY LOCKDOWN!

ALL AGENTS: CONTAIN THAT STREET SCENE.

I WANT ALL AVENGERS IN THEIR ROOMS.

I WANT A BATTALION UP TO THE AVENGERS RESIDENCE.

GARGAN, YOU ARE GOING TO LIVE IN A DARK HOLE TILL THE MOON BECOMES THE--

SECURITY LOCKDOWN!

SECURITY LOCKDOWN!

CAN I HELP YOU?

SECURITY LOCKDOWN!

BLAM

SECURITY LOCKDOWN!

PING

MM!

YOU DO KNOW I HAVE NICK FURY'S JOB. THAT MEANS I HAVE ALL NICK FURY'S TOYS.

PERSONAL FORCE SHIELD... YEAH.

YOU DIDN'T THINK I *KNEW* YOU WANTED TO KILL ME?

BLAM

BLAM

BLAM

I'M JUST SURPRISED IT TOOK YOU THIS LONG TO *TRY*.

I'M SURPRISED YOU CAME ALONE.

PING

PING

BLAM

LET'S SEE HOW YOUR PERSONAL SHIELD HOLDS UP WHEN I TOSS YOU OUT THE WINDOW.

IT'S NOT GOING TO HAPPEN.

AGH!

SECURITY LOCKDOWN!

WHAP

RIGHT.

SECURITY LOCKDOWN!

CRACK

UGH...

BLOODY HELL!

HOLD ON.

THERE WAS A TIME, CLINT BARTON, WHEN YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN ON THIS SIDE OF THE COIN.

I COULD CUT OFF HIS HANDS.

NO. NO. HE HAS INTEL WE NEED. SAVE HIS HANDS AS A BARGAINING CHIP.

THANK YOU, ARES.

SEE? NOW YOU KNOW WHY WE NEED TO START WORK ON THIS LIST.

YOU SEE?

CLINT BARTON, YOU'RE UNDER ARREST.

THAT'S ONE DOWN...

NEW AVENGERS ANNUAL #3

BY MIKE MAYHEW

MM...

AGH! CRAP...

OH, GREAT.

WELL, MISTER BARTON... THE LESSON YOU'VE LEARNED TODAY IS...

...BE CAREFUL WHO YOU GO OUT OF YOUR WAY TO SLAM IN THE MEDIA...

OH, AND...

AND BE CAREFUL WHO YOU GO AND TRY TO MURDER IN COLD BLOOD...

THE DARK AVENGERS

SPIDER-MAN

HAWKEYE

ARES

IRON PATRIOT

BECAUSE YOU NEVER KNOW WHO THE LAST PEOPLE TO SEE YOU ALIVE WILL BE.

WOLVERINE

SENTRY

MS. MARVEL

HEY, NORMAN.
HOW'S THE HAIR?
TELL YOU WHAT, BARTON.
SAY YOU'RE SORRY AND WE'LL LET YOU GO.
OKAY, THAT'S FUNNY.
I THOUGHT SO.
ALRIGHTY, WHERE DO YOU WANT ME TO START THE HURTING?
NO, NO, HAWKEYE. THIS IS BETWEEN ME AND HIM. YOU GET TO WATCH.
BUT--
JUST HAVING YOU HERE IN HIS OLD COSTUME IS ENOUGH TORTURE FOR NOW.
FOR YOU, MAYBE. I NEED MORE TACTILE--
SETTLE.
WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND, NORMAN?
WHERE ARE THE AVENGERS HIDING?
YOU TELL ME NOW AND I'LL SPARE YOUR EX-WIFE.

MOCKINGBIRD

AVENGERS HIDEOUT.

OH, NO.

Notes:

I HAD TO TRY.

DO NOT COME AFTER ME.

I LOVE YOU VERY MUCH.

OH, NO...

NO NO NO...

WHAT DID YOU DO?

BOBBI?

ALL THAT WE'VE BEEN THROUGH. ALL OF IT.

YOU THREW IT ALL AWAY.

MS. MARVEL

WHAT'S GOING ON?

SPIDER-WOMAN

DID WHAT?

CLINT WENT AND DID IT. HE WENT AND DID IT.

WENT TO KILL NORMAN OSBORN.

IDIOT.

WHAT DID YOU DO?

WHERE ARE THE AVENGERS HIDING?

WHERE AM I? IS THIS A HELICARRIER?

HE WILL NEVER TELL YOU.

WE'LL SEE.

THE "GOD OF WAR" IS RIGHT, GREEN GOBLIN.

(YOU DON'T MIND IF I CALL YOU BY YOUR REAL NAME, DO YOU?)

I'M NOT GOING TO BE INTIMIDATED.

I'M NOT GOING TO PLAY YOUR GAME.

ON ANY LEVEL.

SO GO AHEAD. DO WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO?

WHERE ARE THE AVENGERS HIDING?

HOW DO YOU EVEN GET YOUR HAIR TO *DO* THAT?

MAC.

JUST A NIBBLE.

AAGGHH!!

CRACK

AGRGH!

AAAIEE!

CRACK

HA!

CRACK

TAP

THAT WAS CUTE.

OKAY, FUN'S OVER.

EVERYBODY OUT.

YOU WANT ME TO STAY?

NO.

BUT TELL VICTORIA TO BRING OUR SPECIAL GUEST IN AS SOON AS HE GETS HERE.

WHO?

SHE KNOWS.

ANY WORD FROM CAPTAIN AMERICA?
NO.
SPIDEY?
NO.
THEY WERE JUST HERE.
HEY, THAT'S THE NATURE OF OUR DEAL.
EVERYONE HAS THEIR OWN ADVENTURES TOO.
I KNOW. (BUT WE NEED THEM.)
CELL PHONES DON'T WORK WITH THE LIFESTYLE.
I KNOW.
WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING?
WHAT AM I-- I'M GOING *AFTER* HIM.
HE TOLD YOU *NOT* TO.
THE MAGIC OF OUR RELATIONSHIP IS I NEVER LISTEN TO HIM BECAUSE I KNOW BETTER THAN HIM.
AND HE DOESN'T SEEM TO LISTEN TO YOU.
CLEARLY.
SOUNDS GREAT.
IT WORKS.
EXCEPT FOR THIS PART.
OKAY. I--I KNOW YOUR TRYING TO BE CUTE TO TAKE MY MIND OFF IT. DON'T.
SORRY.
LOOK, JESSICA...
I APPRECIATE THE--THE--
I GET IT.
THE--
I GET IT. OKAY. SO...WHAT'S THE PLAN?
JESSICA JONES
HEY, GUYS, WHAT'S GOING ON?
IS LUKE OKAY?

HE'S RECUPERATING. HE'S FINE.
IT'S BARTON. HE WENT AFTER NORMAN.
YEAH.
YEAH.
BY HIMSELF?
HOLY @#$%.
OH MY GOD.
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
NOTHING.
NOTHING?!
LISTEN, HE'S DEFINITELY IN THE HELICARRIER OVER THE TOWER.
IT'S A MOB SCENE OF AGENTS AND @#$% AVENGERS.
IT'S A FORTRESS GUARDED BY THE GOD OF WAR AND FIFTY OTHER THINGS BETTER THAN US.
I'M NOT GOING TO DO *NOTHING!*
I KNOW. BUT THE THREE OF US AGAINST THAT...
HOLD ON...
LUKE HAS TO *HEAL,* JESSICA.
I KNOW.
YEAH, I DON'T WANT HIM TO--
I GOT IT.

MOM, CAN YOU WATCH THE BABY?

I KNOW. NO.

EVERYTHING IS *FINE.*

CAN YOU? GOOD.

MAKE IT FOUR.

NO. REALLY?

YEAH.

SINCE WHEN?

IT'S TIME.

NO. YOU STAY WITH YOUR BABY.

HEY. YOU HELPED SAVE MY HUSBAND. I'LL HELP YOU SAVE YOURS.

BOBBI.

BOBBI. I DON'T KNOW HOW TO SAY THIS SO I'LL JUST SAY IT...

THEY DON'T PLAY BY OUR RULES.

IF THEY CAUGHT HIM, THEY KILLED HIM.

NO...

THEY DIDN'T.

THERE'S MUCH MORE THEY CAN DO.

NN...

HI THERE!

I KNOW THIS...

OKAY, YA LI'L PISHERS...

...TIME TO END THIS.

FOOT FOOT FOOT FOOT

COME ON, AVENGERS!

LET'S END THIS OUR WAY!

THESE BLUE @#$!% CAME AROUND *TODAY?* LOOKING FOR A *FIGHT?*

LET'S SEND THEM HOME WITH SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT!

AW, CRAP! NEED SOME HELP HERE!

NOT LIKE THIS! AARRG!

LIKE THIS! RAARRG!

HAWKEYE!

AARRGG!

YAAGHH!

AAIIEEEE!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

YOU'RE WASTING MY TIME.

AAGGHH!

JUST GET ME THE INTEL, FLUMM.

MENTALLO.

WHATEVER.

MISTER OSBORN. THE MIND IS A COMPLICATED, GORGEOUS LANDSCAPE.

AND THIS MAN-- THIS MAN HAS BEEN TRAINED BY CAPTAIN AMERICA. BY NICK FURY.

HE KNOWS HOW TO FIGHT OFF A MENTAL INTRUSION.

YOU'RE WASTING MY TIME.

I NEED TO STRIP AWAY HIS RESOLVE. I NEED TO WEAKEN HIM... MENTALLY.

AND THE BEST WAY TO DO THAT IS TO MAKE HIM RELIVE ALL THE NIGHTMARES OF HIS LIFE.

EVERY HURT.

EVERY EMBARRASSMENT...

EVERY MISSED OPPORTUNITY. EVERY FAILURE.

THE LITTLE ONES, THE BIG ONES. THE ONES NO ONE KNOWS ABOUT...

YOU WANTED HIM TO SUFFER.

DON'T YOU WORRY.

HE *IS* SUFFERING.

WHERE ARE THE AVENGERS HIDING?

I'LL ASK HIM.

GOT A PEN?

BROOKLYN.

WHAT DOES THE ARMOR SAY, NORMY?

NOTHING. IT SCANS CLEAN.

THERE'S NO ONE THERE?

NO, THE BUILDING IS **CLOAKED**. AS IN I CAN'T SCAN IT.

IT MEANS THEY ARE ***ABSOLUTELY*** IN THERE.

EXACTLY. OLD-SCHOOL FURY STUFF.

WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE US DO?

WELL, YOU GUYS ARE ALWAYS ASKING FOR PERMISSION TO LET LOOSE.

ON MY WORD. HAVE AT IT.

THERE'S A BABY IN THERE. LUKE CAGE'S BABY...

AND I'M NOT THE ONE THAT PUT IT IN HARM'S WAY.

BOB, RIP THE NORTH SIDE OF THE BUILDING OFF.

FABOOM

AVENGERS ASSEM--

--BLE.

YEAH, UH, THERE'S NO ONE HERE...

=SNIFF=

DIAPERS AND MENSTRUATION.

THEY WERE HERE AN HOUR AGO.

HUH.

THEY CLEANED OUT AND RAN. THEY KNEW WE WERE COMING.

AH.

THEY WERE SMART ENOUGH TO KNOW OSBORN COULD GET THIS LOCATION OUT OF BARTON.

HUH.

WHERE DO YOU THINK THEY WENT?

H.A.M.M.E.R. HELICARRIER.

WHAT ELSE DO YOU HAVE FOR ME IN THERE, MISTER BARTON?

TELL ME THE NAMES OF ALL YOUR FRIENDS...

THEIR REAL NAMES.

WHERE IS *CLINT BARTON?!*

RONIN!

WHERE IS MY HUSBAND?!

TELL ME THEIR REAL NAMES...

SON OF A--

NO, I DIDN'T DO ANY--

RRIIPPCHHUNNK

SMACK

BABY? BABY?

BBBBBOBBI.

YOU OKAY, BABY?

SORRY, BABY...LAST TIME.

PROMISE.

YOU SAID THAT LAST TIME.

TIME TO GO!

WELL, DAMN.

IT'S ALMOST AS IF THEY WERE SMART ENOUGH TO KNOW YOU'D FIGURE OUT WHERE THEY LIVE...

HAULED ASS OUT OF THERE IN TIME, AND USED THE OPEN WINDOW TO BREAK BARTON OUT OF--

WE GOT THEIR HOUSE.

OH, MAN...

SPIDER-MAN

I AM AN EXPERT ON BAD AND *THIS* IS BAD.

I GOT A HOT READ ALL OF A SUDDEN.

THERE!

WE HAVE VISUAL. SQUADRON 6, TAKE TO THE SKY!

SHABOOM

IT'S MY FAULT FOR LEAVING QUEENS.

OKAY, WHAT WAS *THAT?!*

SPIDER-MAN. GOOD.

YOU REMEMBERED PLAN B.

I REMEMBERED THINKING WE WERE SAFE IN YOUR *OTHER* SECRET HIDEOUT AND WE WOULDN'T NEED ANOTHER ONE A BLOCK AND A HALF AWAY.

AND YET... *HERE WE ARE.*

HOW BAD WAS IT OVER THERE?

IT WASN'T TOO BAD... FOR GERMANY 1945.

GUYS...I'M SORRY.

AND...

AND I'LL NEVER DO IT AGAIN.

BECAUSE...

IT WAS SELFISH, STUPID, ILL-CONCEIVED...

AND...

I GET IT. I WON'T DO IT AGAIN.

YOU WERE RIGHT, PETER... I LOST IT.

I'M NOT USED TO BEING PUSHED THIS HARD. I'M NOT.

I CAN'T STAND OSBORN. I CAN'T STAND THAT THE WORLD IS GOING TO HELL AND NO ONE SEEMS TO CARE.

YOU WERE RIGHT AND I WAS WRONG.

BUT LISTEN TO ME HERE, PLEASE...

YOU GOTTA KNOW I WOULD NEVER DO ANYTHING TO PUT YOU, ANY OF YOU, YOUR BABY, I WOULD NEVER PUT YOU IN HARM'S WAY.

I WOULD NEVER DO ANYTHING TO PUT YOU IN THIS POSITION.

I'M SORRY.

AND WHAT'S ALL THIS?

HEY, POST-BABY AND I STILL SQUEEZED INTO THE DAMN THING.

IS THIS THE WAY IT'S GOING TO BE?

THINKING ABOUT IT.

WELL, THIS IS A NEW THING THEN.

I SAID I'M THINKING ABOUT IT.

I KNOW YOU, GIRL. YOU ALREADY DECIDED.

WELL, YOU GUYS CLEARLY NEED BACK-UP.

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT CAME TO THIS.

STEVE ROGERS IS GOING TO KILL ME.

WELL, I'M NOT THRILLED...

BUT FOR NOW I'M JUST HAPPY YOU'RE ALL OKAY.

YOU'RE RIGHT, HAWKEYE, THE WORLD *HAS* GONE TO HELL.

BUT THANK GOD THE AVENGERS ARE HERE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.

AND WE ARE.

YOU READY?

CONTINUED IN :

SIEGE

DARK REIGN: THE GOBLIN LEGACY

BY KALMAN ANDRASOFSZKY

"THANK YOU FOR MEETING WITH ME.

"I KNOW YOU'VE HAD A NUMBER OF RUN-INS WITH THE ***GREEN GOBLIN***-- MORE THAN A FEW ***CLOSE CALLS,*** I'D IMAGINE.

"SO HOW DID YOU FEEL WHEN YOU LEARNED THE GOBLIN WAS ACTUALLY ***NORMAN OSBORN...?***

...THE *FATHER* OF ONE OF YOUR *BEST FRIENDS?*

LIKE SOMEONE HAD BEAT ME, TIED ME UP, THEN DRAGGED ME HALFWAY ACROSS TOWN.

SO YOU TOOK IT VERY *PERSONALLY,* MR. PARKER?

YEAH. *VERY.* LOOK, I TOLD HARRY I'D *TALK* WITH YOU, MS. HAND--BUT WHAT'S THIS ALL *ABOUT?*

MR. OSBORN IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT MEN IN THE COUNTRY RIGHT NOW. HEAD OF *H.A.M.M.E.R.,* LEADER OF THE *AVENGERS.*

THE RECENT CONFIRMATION OF OLD RUMORS THAT HE WAS, FOR A TIME, THE *GREEN GOBLIN* COULD HAVE PROVED *DISASTROUS.*

GOD FORBID.

INDEED. AND AS HIS *DEPUTY DIRECTOR,* I'VE TAKEN IT ON MYSELF TO FIND IF THERE ARE ANY OTHER...SHADOWS FROM HIS PAST THAT COULD PROVE *TROUBLESOME.*

LITTLE LATE FOR *VETTING*, ISN'T IT, MS. HAND?

HE *DOESN'T* KNOW YOU'RE DOING THIS, DOES HE? MAKES ME WONDER IF YOU'VE REALLY GOT HIS *BEST INTERESTS* AT HEART.

BELIEVE WHATEVER YOU *WANT,* MR. PARKER-- IF IT MEANS YOU'LL TELL ME EVERYTHING YOU KNOW ABOUT MR. OSBORN.

I KNOW HE'S ***RUTHLESS, RELENTLESS,*** AND TOTALLY ***SELF-CENTERED.***

MOST SUCCESSFUL PEOPLE ***ARE,*** TO ONE DEGREE OR ANOTHER. YOU DON'T RISE TO THE TOP UNLESS YOU BELIEVE YOU ***BELONG*** THERE.

TELL ME SOMETHING I ***DON'T*** KNOW.

YOU DON'T KNOW HOW ***FAR*** HE'LL GO TO GET WHAT HE ***WANTS.***

YOU DON'T KNOW WHEN HE'LL DECIDE YOU'VE SERVED YOUR PURPOSE AND ***TURN*** ON YOU.

YOU DON'T KNOW WHEN HE'LL CROSS THE LINE FROM ***GENIUS*** INTO ***MADNESS.***

NO ONE DOES.

I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANYTHING ELSE I CAN TELL YOU, MS. HAND. SORRY.

JUST ONE MORE THING, MR. PARKER.

BEFORE YOU LEARNED THE TRUTH, DID YOU HAVE ANY ***INKLING*** THAT MR. OSBORN WAS THE GREEN GOBLIN?

THAT HE COULD BE THAT ***DANGEROUS?*** THAT OUT OF ***CONTROL?***

SORRY TO SAY ***I DIDN'T.***

GUESS YOU COULD SAY THERE WAS A TIME HARRY'S DAD BEING THE ***GREEN GOBLIN*** WAS ABOUT AS LIKELY AS ME BEING ***SPIDER-MAN...***

AND PETER PARKER'S MIND DRIFTS BACK TO A DAY SOME YEARS EARLIER. A DAY HE CAN NEVER TELL ANYONE ABOUT...

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN!

"HOW GREEN WAS MY GOBLIN!"

ATTENTION, ALL WEB-SPINNERS!

BE PREPARED FOR MORE STARTLING, SURPRISE DEVELOPMENTS THAN YOU'VE EVER SEEN IN ANY SINGLE SPIDEY SPECTACULAR BEFORE!

WE WENT ***ALL-OUT*** ON THIS ONE--SO BUCKLE YOUR SEAT BELTS, AND ***AWAAAAAAAY*** WE GO--

BY ***NOW***, THAT WEB-CRAWLING WEASEL MUST HAVE FORGOTTEN ALL ABOUT THE ***GREEN GOBLIN!***

THEREFORE, THIS IS THE PERFECT TIME FOR ME TO ***STRIKE***-- AND TO GET THE ***REVENGE*** THAT MY SOUL IS ***HUNGERING*** FOR!

DAILY BUGLE

SPIDER-MAN'S IDENTITY STILL A MYSTERY

SCRIPT..... SMILIN' **STAN LEE**

ART..... JAZZY **JOHNNY ROMITA**

INKS..... MIGHTY **MICKEY DEMEO**

LETTERING.. ADORABLE **ARTIE SIMEK**

ALL DURING THE SPEEDY, HAIR-RAISING FLIGHT BACK TO HIS HIDEOUT, THE MYSTERIOUS ***GREEN GOBLIN*** WORKS HIMSELF INTO A VERITABLE ***FRENZY*** AS HE RECOLLECTS HIS PREVIOUS BATTLES WITH ***SPIDER-MAN,*** UNTIL...

I'VE WAITED LONG ENOUGH! THERE WILL NEVER BE A BETTER TIME TO DESTROY MY MOST HATED ENEMY THAN ***NOW!***

EVERYTHING IS IN ***MY*** FAVOR! I HAVE THE POWER--THE SKILL--AND THE PRICELESS ELEMENT OF ***SURPRISE!***

BUT, MERELY ***DESTROYING*** HIM--SIMPLY ***CRUSHING*** HIM LIKE A WORM --WILL NOT GIVE ME ENOUGH SATISFACTION!

I MUST DO STILL ***MORE*** THAN THAT!

FIRST, I'LL ***TOY*** WITH HIM-- OUTSMART HIM EVERY STEP OF THE WAY--AS ONLY THE ***GOBLIN*** CAN!

THEN, BEFORE DELIVERING THE ***FINAL STROKE,*** I'LL ADMINISTER THE MOST ***HUMILIATING*** BLOW OF ALL--

I'LL LEARN HIS ***SECRET IDENTITY,*** AND REVEAL IT TO ALL THE WORLD!

THEN-- AND ***ONLY*** THEN--I'LL ***FINISH*** HIM-- FOREVER!

MY LITTLE BAG OF TRICKS IS FULLY LOADED-- AND MY ***STUN BOMBS*** ARE MORE POTENT THAN EVER!

IF I DIDN'T ***DESPISE*** THAT MISERABLE MASKED MISANTHROPE SO MUCH, I'D ALMOST ***PITY*** HIM--BECAUSE OF WHAT'S IN STORE!

I'VE MODIFIED MY ROCKET-POWERED ***FLYING BROOMSTICK*** SO THAT IT'S FASTER AND MORE MANEUVERABLE THAN EVER!

HAD I NOT BEEN SO CARELESS--AND SO OVERCONFIDENT IN THE PAST, I COULD HAVE BEATEN SPIDER-MAN EVEN ***THEN--***

--BUT ***NOW--*** THE OUTCOME IS A FOREGONE CONCLUSION!

HE HASN'T A ***CHANCE!***

BY THE TIME MY LITTLE SCHEME IS FINISHED, SPIDER-MAN'S SECRET IDENTITY WILL BE A SECRET *NO LONGER!*

--AND THE *GREEN GOBLIN* WILL HAVE SCORED THE GREATEST TRIUMPH OF ALL!

WE DON'T WANT YOU TO THINK THAT THE AVERAGE CITY IS CRAWLING WITH COSTUMED HIGH-FLYERS, BUT IN ANOTHER SECTION OF THE TEEMING METROPOLIS WE FIND--

JUST MY LUCK-- I FEEL AS THOUGH I'M CATCHING A REAL HEAVY *HEAD COLD!*

OF COURSE IT *COULD* BE JUST AN *ALLERGY!*

BUT, I CAN'T AFFORD TO TAKE ANY CHANCES! I'LL LET *DOC BROMWELL* GIVE ME A FAST CHECKUP!

I DON'T WANNA BE THE ONLY SUPERHERO IN TOWN WHO *SNEEZES* HIS WAY THRU A FIGHT!

SECONDS LATER...

I'LL LEAVE MY SPIDEY COSTUME IN MY BRIEF-CASE UNTIL THE DOC'S THRU EXAMINING ME, AND THEN--UH OH!

HEY, SON--NO ONE'S ALLOWED IN THAT BROOM CLOSET! WHATCHA *DOIN'* IN THERE?

BROOM CLOSET? I THOUGHT IT WAS A *WAITING ROOM!*

MAINTENANCE

I SHOULD HAVE *KNOWN* I WAS IN THE WRONG PLACE, THOUGH! THERE WEREN'T ANY OF LAST YEAR'S *MAGAZINES* ON THE TABLE!

I WAS HERE ALL THE TIME! I DIDN'T SEE ANY-ONE GO *IN* THAT ROOM! HOW THE HECK--??

POOR GUY! I KNOW WHAT'S *PUZZLING* HIM!

WONDER WHAT HE'D SAY IF I TOLD HIM I SWUNG IN THRU THE WINDOW ON MY *WEB?!!*

DR. BROMWELL

OFFICE HOURS 9 to

OH WELL--HE'LL HAVE TO CHALK IT UP AS ONE OF LIFE'S LITTLE MYSTERIES!

IS THE DOCTOR *EXPECTING* YOU?

WELL, I DON'T HAB AN APPOINTMENT, BUT I HAB THIS BAD, CODE ID MY NODE--!

SO I SEE! GO RIGHT IN, THEN--LUCKILY, HE'S FREE AT THE MOMENT!

HI, DOC! I CAME TO SEE YOU BECAU'D I HAB--

YOU DON'T HAVE TO **TELL** ME, PETE! THAT INVISIBLE **CLOTHESPIN** YOU SEEM TO BE WEARING ON YOUR NOSE IS A DEAD GIVEAWAY!

ROLL UP YOUR SLEEVE, SON...

WONDER WHAT **HE'D** SAY IF I HADN'T TAKEN MY **SPIDEY SUIT** OFF AND HE SAW IT PEEPIN' OUT AT HIM FROM UNDER MY SHIRT?

YOUR BLOOD PRESSURE'S FINE, PETE! YOU'VE GOT THE PULSE OF A **SUPER HERO!**

YOU'RE PUTTIN' ME ON, DOC!

FINALLY... YOU'VE A **WHOPPER** OF A COLD, SON--BUT SOME ANTI-HISTAMINE PILLS AND A B-12 SHOT WILL HAVE YOU GOOD AS NEW AGAIN!

HOWEVER, I'M GLAD YOU DROPPED IN-- I WANT TO **TALK** TO YOU--!

YOU LOOK SO **GRIM**, DOC! IS ANYTHING **WRONG?** IS IT ABOUT **AUNT MAY?**

NOW DON'T BE ALARMED, MY BOY! IT **IS** ABOUT YOUR AUNT--AND IT'S SOMETHING **QUITE IMPORTANT!**

AS YOU KNOW, I'VE BEEN KEEPING CLOSE WATCH OVER HER SINCE HER LAST OPERATION...

EVEN THOUGH SHE'S REGAINED SOME OF HER STRENGTH, SHE'S AN OLD WOMAN, PETE--

--AND THE OPERATION HAS **WEAKENED** HER A GREAT DEAL! SO, I JUST WANTED TO **WARN** YOU--IN HER PRESENT CONDITION, SHE MUST HAVE **NO SUDDEN SHOCKS**-- NO EXCITEMENT--!

ANY ADDITIONAL SETBACK MIGHT VERY WELL PROVE--**FATAL!**

LUCKILY YOU BOTH LEAD **QUIET PEACEFUL** LIVES--WHICH IS WHAT YOUR AUNT NEEDS MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE!

I KNOW YOU'LL DO ALL YOU CAN TO KEEP HER CALM-- AND **UNWORRIED!**

SURE, DOC-- SURE!

I'VE BEEN SO WRAPPED UP IN **MYSELF** LATELY, I HAD ALMOST FORGOTTEN HOW NEAR TO DEATH AUNT MAY HAD BEEN!

NOW, MORE THAN EVER, I MUST SEE TO IT THAT SHE NEVER LEARNS MY **SECRET IDENTITY!**

IT WOULD WORRY HER-- INTO THE GRAVE!

IT MUST BE **WONDERFUL** TO BE HIS AGE--NO TROUBLES--NO RESPONSIBILITIES-- NONE OF THE **WORRIES** OF OLDER FOLK!

I SURE DON'T FEEL MUCH LIKE **CLASSES** TODAY--BUT I CAN'T AFFORD TO MISS A SESSION-- I'VE HAD **TOO MANY** ABSENCES LATELY!

I'VE ALWAYS TAKEN AUNT MAY FOR GRANTED--BUT, IF ANYTHING SHOULD **HAPPEN** TO HER--!

SHE'S BEEN SO **GOOD** TO ME ALL THESE YEARS --SACRIFICED SO MUCH FOR ME...!

I NEVER THOUGHT OF IT THIS WAY BEFORE, BUT--SHE'S MY ONLY **RELATIVE**--SHE'S ALL THE FAMILY I **HAVE!**

THERE'S PETER PARKER! NOW REMEMBER, FLASH--WE ALL DECIDED TO ACT **FRIENDLY** TO HIM!

HI, PETE! HOW'S IT GOIN'? SEEN ANY-THING OF HARRY OSBORN?

:HMMPH!: LOOKS TO **ME** LIKE YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME! PARKER'S NOT **BUYIN'!**

LET'S **FACE** IT! HE'S THE ORIGINAL **COLD SHOULDER KID!** IF HE WANTS TO BE A LONER, **LET** 'IM! WHAT'S IT TO US?

I JUST DON'T **UNDER-STAND** HIM! SOME-TIMES HE'S AS FRIENDLY AS A PUPPY!

I **KNEW** IT WAS A MISTAKE! THAT GUY'S LIKE **NOWHERE!**

WELL, HERE'S WHERE I GET OUT! THANKS FOR THE LIFT, DAD!

UH HUH...

IS ANYTHING **WRONG,** DAD? YOU HARDLY SAID A WORD ALL THE WAY FROM THE HOUSE TO HERE!

THERE'S **NOTHING** WRONG! DID YOU WANT ME TO GIVE YOU A **LIFT,** OR DELIVER A **SPEECH** ON THE WAY?!!

I DIDN'T MEAN TO GET YOU **ANGRY!** I WAS JUST WONDERING--

WELL, **DON'T** WONDER! IT COSTS ME A **FORTUNE** TO KEEP YOU IN COLLEGE--SO TRY THINKING ABOUT YOUR **STUDIES** ONCE IN A WHILE!

EVERYTHING I SAY OR DO SEEMS TO DISPLEASE HIM! IF ONLY I KNEW WHAT WAS **WRONG!**

THERE HE IS **NOW!**

HEY, HARRY--ALL BETS ARE **OFF** ABOUT PUNY PARKER! HE'S AS **HOPELESS** AS EVER!

WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO **HIM?**

HOLY SMOKE! NOW **HE'S** MAKIN' WITH THE "I DON'T KNOW YA FROM ADAM" BIT!

I DUNNO WHAT PARKER'S **GOT**--BUT WE BETTER PUT 'IM IN **QUARANTINE!** IT'S TURNIN' INTO AN **EPIDEMIC!**

IF HE'S IN TROUBLE --IF HE **NEEDS** ANYTHING--WHY WON'T HE **TELL** ME? I'M ONLY A COLLEGE STUDENT, BUT MAYBE I CAN **HELP!**

NEVER SAW OSBORN SO QUIET! NORMALLY HE'D HAVE TOSSED A DOZEN **INSULTS** MY WAY BY NOW!

S'MATTER, HARRY? ANYTHI'G WRONG? AREN'T YOU **FEELING** WELL?

I'M OKAY, PARKER!

AND SINCE WHEN IS IT ANY OF **YOUR** BUSINESS WHETHER OR NOT I--

AW, **FORGET** IT! I DIDN'T MEAN TO SNAP AT YOU!

WOW! SOME-THING MUST BE **REALLY** BUGGING HIM! HE'S ALMOST ACTING **HUMAN!**

I JUST CAN'T FIGURE OUT ***PARENTS!*** NOW TAKE MY ***DAD***--WE WERE ALWAYS REAL ***PALS***--TILL A FEW YEARS AGO! THEN HE STARTED TO--CHANGE!

I KNOW HE'S BEEN HAVING TOUGH SLEDDING IN ***BUSINESS***--BUT WHY TAKE IT OUT ON ***ME?***

THE POOR GUY!

NO ***WONDER*** HARRY SEEMED SO BITTER!

I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN, FELLA--BUT TRY TO LOOK AT IT ***THIS*** WAY--IT CAN ALWAYS BE ***WORSE!*** FOR INSTANCE, TAKE ***ME***--I DON'T REMEMBER EVER EVEN ***HAVI'G*** A FATHER!

PETER AND HARRY--HAVING A REAL HEART-TO-HEART! NOW I'VE SEEN ***EVERYTHING!***

YOU MEAN--YOU'RE AN ***ORPHAN?*** I DIDN'T ***KNOW*** THAT ABOUT YOU--

I SHOULDN'T HAVE SOUNDED OFF THAT WAY TO YOU, PARKER! FORGET ABOUT THE WHOLE THING, HUH?

SURE, BUT SOMETIMES IT'S GOOD TO GET SOMETHI'G OFF YOUR CHEST!

IF PETER PARKER BECOMES ONE OF OUR CROWD, IT'LL BE JUST ***WONDERFUL***--FOR ***ME!***

PARKER'S A FUNNY GUY! AFTER ALL THE ***NEEDLIN'*** HE'S TAKEN FROM HIM, THERE HE IS TALKING TO ***HARRY*** LIKE A DUTCH UNCLE!

HE'S EITHER A REAL WEAK SISTER--OR A LOT MORE ***MAN*** THAN WE EVER THOUGHT HE WAS!

WELL DON'T LET IT BUG YOU, FELLA! THINGS HAVE A ***WAY*** OF GETTI'G ***BETTER*** WHEN YOU LEAST EXPECT IT!

YEAH--I GUESS SO--!

BUT, JUST TO PROVE YOU'RE NOT REALLY READING ***TOM BROWN'S SCHOOL DAYS,*** CLASSES FINALLY BREAK, AND ***ACTION TIME*** IS APPROACHING FAST--

STILL CAN'T SHAKE THIS DARN COLD! MAYBE A LITTLE ***WEB-SWINGING*** IS WHAT I NEED!

YOU OR I MIGHT WISH FOR "A LITTLE WEB-SLINGING", AND THAT WOULD BE THAT--

--BUT, WHEN ***PETER PARKER*** SAYS IT--IT'S FOR ***REAL,*** TIGER!

AHH, ***THIS*** IS MORE LIKE IT! I'M FEELING BETTER ***ALREADY!***

WOW! LOOK AT ***THAT!***

THEY MUST BE ***NUTS*** TO PULL A STICKUP ***THERE,*** RIGHT IN SPIDEY-SWINGIN' TERRITORY! MIGHT AS WELL DO IT IN ***MACY'S WINDOW!***

GLAD MY ***CAMERA'S*** LOADED! LOOKS LIKE I'LL BE ABLE TO SELL SOME PIX TO JOLLY JONAH!

HEADS UP, YOU GUYS! HERE COMES ***SPIDER-MAN!***

LET 'IM ***COME!*** WE'LL TAKE CARE OF 'IM!

SO ***WHAT?*** THAT'S WHAT WE WERE ***WAITIN'*** FOR, WUZN'T IT?

YEAH, BUT A ***PUSHOVER*** THAT GUY ***AIN'T!***

DON'T NOBODY TRY ANYTHING ***FUNNY,*** SEE?

WE AINT EXACTLY FAMOUS FOR OUR ***SENSAHUMOR!***

ELEVAT(

HERE HE COMES! GRAB 'IM! HE CAN'T LICK ALL OF-- =YUMMMPH!=

IF YOUR FIGHTI'G PROWESS IS AS WEAK AS YOUR HOSPITALITY, YOU'RE IN A BAD WAY, CHARLIE!

BOK!

KRK!

IT'S ODD--THEY DIDN'T SEEM SURPRISED TO SEE ME! ALMOST AS THOUGH THEY EXPECTED ME TO ATTACK THEM! OR, AM I JUST IMAGINING IT?

DON'T RUSH, FELLAS! I PROMISE NOT TO IGNORE A SINGLE ONE OB YOU!

FTOP!

IT'S BEEN QUITE A WHILE SINCE I JUST HAD A NICE, SIMPLE COPS 'N ROBBERS TYPE OF FIGHT WITH A BUNCH OF AVERAGE, ORDINARY, EVERYDAY THUGS!

IT MAKES YOU REALIZE THERE'S NOTHING AS SATISFYING AS THE SIMPLE LIFE!

WOK!

YOU STALWARTS MIGHT HAVE A LOT OF INNER QUALITIES WHICH I'M NOT AWARE OF, BUT AS CONVERSATIONALISTS YOU'RE JUST A BUNCH OB DROPOUTS!

WHO'S BEEN GIVI'G YOU YOUR BOXING LESSONS LATELY-- WOODY ALLEN?

TH OP

GOOD WOIK, BOINARD! YA GOT 'IM!

YEAH! NOW WE WON'T HAVETA LISTEN TO ANY MORE OF HIS BLASTED YAPPIN'!

COME ON! COME ON! LET 'IM HAVE IT! WE CAN'T HANG ONTA HIM ALL DAY!

CORRECTION, BUSTER! YOU CAN'T EVEN HA'G ONTO ME FOR ANOTHER SECOND!

KLM!

OHH, MY HEAD! IF ONLY I HAD ANOTHER ALLERGY PILL!

IT'S **DISGRACEFUL**--ALL THOSE THUGS GANGING UP ON ONE LONE MAN! IF ONLY THE **POLICE** WOULD GET HERE!

DON'T WORRY ABOUT **SPIDER-MAN,** LADY! 'CORDIN' TO WHAT I READ IN THE **BUGLE,** HE'S AS BAD AS **ANY** OF THEM!

STILL, HE **DID** TACKLE ALL THOSE HOODLUMS SINGLE-HANDED TO HELP **US!**

HOW DO WE KNOW HE HASN'T ANOTHER--A MORE **SINISTER** REASON?

I **STILL** HAVE A FUNNY FEELING ABOUT ALL THIS! THEY'RE FIGHTING AS THOUGH THEY'VE BEEN **PRACTICING** FOR JUST THIS MOMENT!

--AS THOUGH THEY'VE BEEN **TRAINED** TO HOLD THEIR OWN AGAINST SOMEONE LIKE **ME!**

OKAY, GROUP! YOUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD SPIDER-MAN IS BEGINNI'G TO LOSE HIS **PATIENCE** NOW!

WHAMMO! ONE EIGHT-BALL INTO THE SIDE POCKET!

BTHAP!

FIREARMS! GOOD HEAVENS, MAN! AREN'T YOU AWARE THEIR POSSESSION IS AGAINST THE **LAW!**

KRAK!

THTIK

AND YOU HAVEN'T EVEN SHOUTED "ANYONE AROUND MY BASE IS **IT!**"

THAT'S **DIRTY POOL,** MISTER!

BUT, **WORST** OF ALL, I'VE A FEELI'G YOU LOOKED ID THOSE GLASSES WITHOUT PAYI'G YOUR **DIME!**

UH OH! **MORE** OF 'EM, STARTING TO RUSH ME ALL AT ONCE! GOTTA GIVE THEM "A" **FOR EFFORT,** ANYWAY!

MUCH OBLIGED, GUYS--

I'VE BEEN **WANTI'G** TO TRY OUT THIS NEW, TANGLE-FREE ROLL OF WEBBI'G!

LOOK OUT FOR HIS **WEB!**

THWIP!

NOW YA TELL US!

BUT LET'S HURRY IT UP, HUH? THIS STUFF IS **EXPENSIVE!**

THOSE **HORRIBLE** MEN! WHY DOESN'T SOMEBODY **DO** SOMETHING???!-- DON'T **LOOK** AT THEM, SELWYN--YOU'RE TOO **YOUNG** FOR SUCH AN AWFUL SIGHT!

AWW, MA-- THAT FIGHT'S **TAME** NEXT TO THE KIDDIE SHOWS ON TV!

LOOK! SPIDER-MAN'S LURED THEM AWAY FROM THE **ELEVATOR!** WE CAN ALL GET **OUT** OF HERE NOW!

I'M GLAD MY LITTLE CHEERING GALLERY'S **LEAVING** BEFORE SOMEONE GETS **HURT!**

NO MATTER **HOW** IT HAPPENED, **I'D** BE SURE TO GET THE **BLAME!**

WAIT, MA--LEMME **STAY!** IT'S JUST STARTIN' TO GET **GOOD!**

SELWYN! WHAT WOULD **SOUPY SALES** SAY IF HE HEARD YOU?!!

THAT BLASTED WEB-HEAD MUSTA SHOT HIS BOLT BY NOW! LET'S **GET** 'IM!

I HATE TO SPOIL YOUR PIPE DREAMS, LITTLE MEN--BUT I INTEND TO BE THE **GETTER,** NOT THE **GETTEE!**

THWIP! THWIP!

IF YOU MISSED THE POINT **THIS** TIME, SEE ME AFTER CLASS AND I'LL **REVIEW** ID WITH YOU!

POW!

AKK!

THEY DON'T EVEN ACT **DISAPPOINTED** BECAUSE THEIR VICTIMS ALL ESCAPED! NOW I'M **SURE** THERE'S SOMETHING NOT **KOSHER** ABOUT ALL THIS!

ALTHOUGH I GUESS I SHOULD BE **FLATTERED!** THEY SEEM A LOT MORE INTERESTED IN **ME** THAN IN THE **HAUL** THEY WERE TRYING TO MAKE!

HOLY SMOKE!! WHAT A **SAP** I AM! I JUST **REMEMBERED** SOMETHING--!

I'M ACTING LIKE A KID AT A **PICNIC!** I CLEAN FORGOT ABOUT DR. BROMWELL'S **WARNING** THAT AUNT MAY IS TO HAVE NO SUDDEN SHOCKS!

AND HERE I AM--TAKING ALL KINDS OF FOOL CHANCES--WHEN NOW, MORE THAN EVER, I DON'T **DARE** RISK GETTING **INJURED!**

UH OH! SOMEONE SLIPPING UP **BEHIND** ME--!

MMMYUMMMPH!

BEEYOK!

UHHH--!

SPIDER SENSE-- I LOVE YOU!

EVEN THOUGH THIS IS A BALL, I'VE GOT TO END IT QUICKLY! CAN'T TAKE A CHANCE OF ACCIDENTALLY GETTING HURT --FOR AUNT MAY'S SAKE!

IT'S NO USE! WE CAN'T OUT-FIGHT 'IM! WE'VE GOTTA USE THE GIMMICK! HURRY --GET THE-- UNNHHH!

WE'LL GET YOU YET, MASKED MAN!

BLAP!

GIMMICK? WHAT WAS HE TALKING ABOUT? WHAT ARE THEY UP TO?

THIS IS IT, WISE GUY! THAT BLASTED SPIDER STRENGTH OF YOURS AINT GONNA HELP YA NOW!

CLAM UP, BLACKIE! I'LL GIVE 'IM THE GIMMICK!

HERE, SMART GUY! WE HAD THIS ALL READY 'N WAITIN'--JUST FOR YOU!

SO JUST STAND THERE 'N TAKE A NICE, DEEP BREATH--MAKE BELIEVE LIKE IT'S POIFUME!

SOME SORT OF ODOR-LESS, BILLOWING GAS! WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

WHAT HAVE I BLUN-DERED INTO?

SHOOSH!

YOU DID IT! WE GOT 'IM NOW!

AND, HIGH ABOVE THE SCENE OF BATTLE, A SINISTERLY SMIRKING SPECTATOR SLYLY SPIES UPON THE STARTLED SPIDER-MAN--!

EVERYTHING WENT PERFECTLY--ACCORDING TO PLAN!

MY TRUMPED-UP ROBBERY ATTRACTED HIM--AS I KNEW IT WOULD--!

AND THE GAS HE HAS JUST INHALED WILL WEAKEN ALL HIS SENSES--INCLUDING HIS MOST POTENT WEAPON--HIS SPIDER SENSE!

THEN WITH HIS SPIDER SENSE NOT FUNCTIONING I'LL BE ABLE TO HUMBLE HIM AT WILL!

HEY! THE GOBLIN TOLD US THAT GAS WOULD POLISH 'IM OFF! BUT IT DIDN'T!!

THAT GREEN GOON TRICKED US!! HE HAD SOMETHIN' ELSE UP HIS SLEEVE!

WELL, I'M CUTTIN' OUT! I'M NOT TACKLIN' HIM AGAIN!

OKAY, GUYS-- THE LESSON'S OVER! NOW ID'S TIME TO TAKE YOUR EXAM!

THWOK!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT GAS WAS SUPPOSED TO DO-- BUT I HOPE YOU BOUGHT ID WITH A MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE!

THIS IS THE LAST OF THEM! FOR ONCE I WAS REALLY LUCKY--I'M NOT EVEN SCRATCHED!

I DON'T KNOW WHO ID IS YOU'RE WORKI'G FOR, BUT I HOPE HE CAN GED ALONG WITHOUT YOU FOR A WHILE!

SPOP!

I'D SURE LIKE TO KNOW WHAT KIND OF GAS THAT WAS??

FAR AS I CAN TELL, IT DIDN'T AFFECT ME AT ALL!

JUST HOLD THOSE POSES NOW, BOYS! ID MIGHT HELP IF YOU'D SMILE AND SAY CHEESE!

HMMPF! LET'S FACE ID! YOU'RE JUST NOT SHOW BUSINESS!

THESE NEWS PICTURES OUGHT TO BRING ME A TIDY LITTLE CHECK FROM FUN-LOVING JONAH!

CLIK!

OL' J. J. JUST LOVES TO SPEND MONEY! IT SLIPS THRU HIS FINGERS LIKE GLUE!

LOOK! IT'S SPIDER-MAN!

HOLD IT, MISTER! WHAT'S GOIN' ON THERE??

THOSE CAPRICIOUS LITTLE CUTUPS ON THE FLOOR IN FRONT OF YOU KNOW MORE ABOUT ID THAN I DO! PERSONALLY, I WAS JUST PASSI'G BY--!

HEY! WAIT! YOU CAN'T GO RUNNING OFF LIKE THAT!

THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN STOP HIM! AT LEAST WE HAVE THOSE CLOWNS OVER THERE!

WELL, NOT A BAD HOUR'S WORK! I STOPPED A ROBBERY-- GOT SOME EXERCISE-- AND TOOK SOME PICTURES I SHOULD BE ABLE TO SELL!

BUT I'D STILL LIKE TO KNOW WHO HIRED THOSE BOZOS, AND WHY THEY WERE SO PREPARED FOR ME!

BUT MOST OF ALL, THAT BUSINESS WITH THE GAS REALLY SINKS ME!

WHY DIDN'T IT DO WHATEVER IT WAS SUPPOSED TO DO? OR--DID IT--WITHOUT ME KNOWING IT?

OH WELL--I'D BETTER TAKE MY CLOTHES FROM WHERE I LEFT THEM AND HEAD FOR HOME!

THANKS TO MY SPIDER-SENSE, I DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THESE QUICK-CHANGE SESSIONS! IF ANYONE WAS WATCHING ME, I'D BE AWARE OF IT!

BUT, NO ONE'S APT TO SEE ME HERE, IN THE SHADOWS OF THIS OLD DESERTED BUILDING!

WONDER IF I'D GET KICKED OUT OF THE SUPER-HERO'S UNION FOR NOT USING A PHONE BOOTH?

BUT, EVEN AS THE WEARY, THO' CONTENTED YOUTH SILENTLY TRANSFORMS HIMSELF INTO PETER PARKER AGAIN, A PAIR OF MERCILESS, MALEVOLENT EYES OBSERVE HIS EVERY MOVE--!

IT WORKED!! JUST AS I KNEW IT WOULD!

MY SPECIALLY-PREPARED GAS WEAKENED HIS SPIDER SENSE--WITHOUT HIM REALIZING IT!

THUS, THE GREEN GOBLIN WILL BE THE FIRST TO LEARN SPIDER-MAN'S REAL IDENTITY!

IT'S INCREDIBLE! HE'S JUST A KID--CAN'T BE MORE THAN NINETEEN OR TWENTY! I'D NEVER HAVE GUESSED!

I'D BETTER BE GETTING HOME NOW! I SURE DON'T WANT AUNT MAY TO WORRY ABOUT ME--

SPECIALLY--AFTER WHAT DOC BROMWELL SAID!

I COULD HAVE SWORN I HEARD A RUSTLING ABOVE ME--LIKE SOME BIG BIRD FLYING BY!

BUT, WHY DIDN'T MY SPIDER SENSE TINGLE? IT SHOULD HAVE REACTED LONG BEFORE MY EARS PICKED UP THE SOUND!

COME ON, PARKER, GET A GRIP ON YOURSELF! YOU'RE SO USED TO BEING IN TROUBLE, THAT WHEN YOU'RE NOT, YOU START IMAGINING THINGS!

NEXT THING I KNOW, I'LL START SEEING GOOFY COSTUMED SUPER-VILLAINS WHO AREN'T THERE!

THAT'S *IT*, LITTLE MAN--HEAD FOR *HOME*--SO THAT THE GALAVANTING *GREEN GOBLIN* CAN SEE WHERE YOU *LIVE!*

ANYWAY, MY *COLD* SEEMS TO HAVE GOTTEN BETTER!

IT'S STRANGE HOW MY THOUGHTS KEEP RETURNING TO MY *SPIDER SENSE*-- AS THOUGH SOMETHING DEEP INSIDE MY BRAIN IS TRYING TO *TELL* ME SOMETHING! BUT--WHAT CAN IT *BE?*

EVEN IF ANYONE *WERE* TO SEE ME NOW--I'D JUST BE AN ORDINARY COLLEGE KID, PROBABLY RETURNING HOME FROM A LATE DATE!

WHY IN BLAZES DO I FEEL SO *JITTERY* ALL OF A SUDDEN??

I SEEM TO REMEMBER THE *LAST* TIME I HAD THIS FEELING --IT WAS A FEW WEEKS AGO-- WHEN I FOUGHT *PROFESSOR STROMM* AND THOSE DEADLY *ROBOTS* OF HIS--!*

I CAN SEE IT ALL IN MY MIND'S EYE *NOW*-- CLEAR AS A PICTURE--

"WHILE I WAS BATTLING WITH STROMM, I SENSED A *GUNMAN* AT THE WINDOW ABOVE! I JUST HAD TIME TO PUSH BOTH OF US OUT OF THE LINE OF FIRE!"

MY *SPIDER SENSE!* IT'S *TINGLING!* A *GUN*--AT THAT WINDOW!

ANOTHER SECOND WOULD HAVE BEEN *TOO LATE!* HE'S ALL SET TO *FIRE!*

LOOK OUT!

WHOEVER IT IS, I CAN'T LET HIM GET *AWAY!*

*IN *SPIDER-MAN #37*, AS ALL LOYAL WEB-SPINNERS ARE SURE TO REMEMBER! -SPIDEY STAN!

"BUT, BY THE TIME I REACHED THE OPEN WINDOW--"

IT DOESN'T MAKE *SENSE!* IT ONLY TOOK ME TWO SECONDS TO GET *UP* HERE!

HOW COULD HE HAVE *VANISHED* SO SOON?

THAT WAS WHEN I *FIRST* BEGAN TO DOUBT MY SPIDER SENSE! HAD THERE *REALLY* BEEN SOMEONE AT THE WINDOW?

IF SO, HOW DID HE *ESCAPE* SO QUICKLY?

OR--WAS MY SPIDER SENSE BEGINNING TO *FAIL* ME??

I WONDER IF I'LL *EVER* KNOW?

WHAT'S *THIS?* HE'S *NOT* GOING HOME! HE'S ENTERING THE *DAILY BUGLE* BUILDING!

WELL--NO MATTER! I CAN AFFORD TO *WAIT!*

DAILY BUGLE

UH OH! THERE'S **NED LEEDS!** IF I WALK PAST HIM QUICKLY, MAYBE HE WON'T **SEE** ME!

I'M JUST NOT IN THE MOOD TO SPEND THE NEXT HOUR ARGUING WITH HIM ABOUT **BETTY!**

OKAY, IF YOU HEAR ANYTHING ABOUT HER, LET ME KNOW!

HELLO THERE, PARKER! I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE HERE!

NUTS! AND HE **WOULDN'T** HAVE KNOWN IF I COULD HELP IT!

I WAS JUST TRYING TO GET SOME INFO ON BETTY'S WHEREABOUTS--BUT NO LUCK YET!

I WANNA **TELL** YOU SOMETHING, FELLA--!

I'M SORRY I SNAPPED AT YOU THE OTHER DAY! IT'S JUST THAT I WAS UPSET ABOUT BETTY'S DISAPPEARANCE! I HAD NO CALL TO FLY OFF THE HANDLE AT **YOU!**

FIRST HARRY OSBORN, AND NOW **HIM!** NEXT, **JAMESON** HIMSELF WILL PROBABLY BLOW ME A KISS!

FORGET IT! I GUESS THE WHOLE THING WAS AS MUCH **MY** FAULT AS YOURS!

I HOPE YOU **DO** FIND HER, NED! AND WHEN YOU DO, YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT **ME!** AS OF NOW, PETER PARKER IS OUT OF THE RACE! YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN!

I'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND WHAT THERE WAS THAT CAME **BETWEEN** YOU AND BETTY BRANT, PETE--BUT I APPRECIATE YOU LETTING ME KNOW WHERE YOU STAND!

IF I EVER GO OUT OF THE **SPIDER-MAN** BUSINESS, MAYBE I'LL OPEN UP A LONELY HEARTS AGENCY!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT MADE ME SAY THAT TO LEEDS--BUT, MAYBE IT'S JUST AS WELL THAT I **DID!** NOW I CAN PUT BETTY OUT OF MY MIND--FORGET HER **FOREVER!**

--IT SAYS HERE!

PARKER!! IS THAT **YOU?!!** I WANT TO **SEE** YOU!

UH OH! IT'S LAUGHING BOY JAMESON--THE **LITTLE MARY SUNSHINE** OF THE PUBLISHING WORLD!

HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVETA **TELL** YOU THIS IS A **NEWSPAPER OFFICE,** NOT A CAMPUS HANGOUT?!! IF YOU HAVEN'T ANY **PHOTOS** FOR ME, **GET LOST!**

FUNNY YOU SHOULD **MENTION** THAT, J. J.!

I JUST HAPPEN TO HAVE AN EXCLUSIVE SERIES OF PIX SHOWING **SPIDER-MAN** WITH A GANG OF HOLDUP HOODS HE CAPTURED!

YOU MEAN THOSE MUGS WHO WERE PICKED UP ON THE OBSERVATION TOWER A FEW HOURS AGO? WHY IN BLAZES DIDN'T YOU **SAY** SO?

YOU DIDN'T **ASK** ME!

HMMM... NOT BAD! NOT **GOOD** MAYBE, BUT NOT BAD! HOW'D YOU HAPPEN TO BE ON THE SCENE TO **GET** THESE SHOTS?

UH UH, MR. J.! REMEMBER OUR BARGAIN! ASK ME NO QUESTIONS, I TELL YOU NO LIES!

OKAY, OKAY! **I** SHOULD WORRY--SO LONG AS I CAN USE THE PIX! I'LL SEND YOU A CHECK NEXT WEEK!

FINE! **I'LL** KEEP THE PICTURES TILL THEN!

NO PUNK KID HOLDS UP **J. JONAH JAMESON!** YOU CAN **HAVE** YOUR CRUMMY PHOTOS!

THANKS! THE **GLOBE** PAYS MORE THAN **YOU** DO, ANYHOW!

THE **GLOBE!** THEY WOULDN'T **TOUCH** YOUR PIX WITH A TEN-FOOT POLE!

BUT, JUST BECAUSE I **LIKE** YOU TOO MUCH TO LET THEM TURN YOU DOWN, **I'LL** TAKE THOSE SHOTS OFF YOUR HANDS! AND HERE'S YOUR BLASTED **MONEY!!** NOW **GET OUT**--BEFORE I COME TO MY SENSES!

JUST LIKE EVERYONE SAYS, J.J., YOU'RE **ALL HEART!**

SURE! SURE! I'M ALL TANKED UP WITH THE MILK OF HUMAN KINDNESS!

BUT, AS FOR **YOU....!**

YOU CALL YOURSELF A **PHOTOG-RAPHER? HORSE THIEF** IS MORE LIKE IT! YOU **ROBBED** ME!! **EVERYBODY** ROBS ME--BECAUSE I'M SO **EASY GOING!**

HE ONLY PAID **HALF** WHAT THE PICTURES ARE WORTH--BUT I SHOULD WORRY!

THIS MONEY'S GONNA LOOK MIGHTY GOOD TO **AUNT MAY**--AND THAT'S ALL I CARE ABOUT!

THANKS TO MY LITTLE **SHOTGUN MIKE,** I HEARD HIM CALL HIMSELF **PETER PARKER!** SO NOW I KNOW HIS **NAME!**

IF ONLY I COULD SHAKE THIS FEELING OF-- **DANGER!**

ALAS, POOR SPIDER-MAN! HIS PRECIOUS **IDENTITY** IS A SECRET **NO LONGER!**

AWW, ALL I PROBABLY NEED IS A GOOD NIGHT'S **SLEEP!** I'M PROBABLY JUST OVER-TIRED FROM ALL MY STUDYING AND WEB-SWINGING!

BUT I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE AUNT MAY'S FACE WHEN I GIVE HER THIS CHECK!--I JUST WISH IT COULD BE STILL **MORE!**

FUNNY-- I **STILL** FEEL SOMEONE **ELSE** IS NEARBY!

AND THEN, BREAKING THE HEAVY SILENCE WITH THE SHRILL IMPACT OF A FINGERNAIL GRATING ALONG A BLACKBOARD, THE RAUCOUS, CACKLING VOICE OF THE **GREEN GOBLIN** CUTS THRU THE NIGHT AIR--

NO NEED TO GO **INSIDE,** PARKER! I'LL JUST HAVE TO GO AFTER YOU AND DRAG YOU **OUT** AGAIN!

THAT **VOICE!!** THEN--THERE **WAS** SOMEONE!! I-I'D RECOGNIZE IT **ANYWHERE--!**

THE GREEN GOBLIN!! YOU--YOU'VE **FOUND** ME!

CORRECT, PARKER! YOUR WEB-SLINGING MASQUERADE IS FINALLY **FINISHED--**

--AND SO ARE **YOU--SPIDER MAN!**

HE KNOWS WHO I *AM!* HE ACTUALLY *KNOWS!!* BUT-- HOW? *HOW?*

I'VE WAITED SO *LONG* FOR THIS MOMENT-- BUT, IT WAS *WORTH* IT! IT WAS WORTH *EVERYTHING!*

I'VE GOT TO *DEFEAT* HIM-- SOMEHOW! I CAN'T LET HIM ESCAPE WITH THE SECRET OF MY *IDENTITY!*

BUT--I JUST *REMEMBERED* --IT'S MORE THAN *MY* PROBLEM--!

AUNT MAY!! DOC BROMWELL SAID ANY SUDDEN SHOCK COULD BE *FATAL* TO HER! WHAT IF SHE LEARNS --ABOUT *THIS?!!*

TORTURED BY AN UNRELENTING CONCERN FOR HIS BELOVED AUNT'S WELFARE, THE DESPERATE YOUTH SUDDENLY MAKES A LIGHTNING-FAST MOVE, ONLY TO FIND--

I'LL SNARE HIM WITH MY *WEB* BEFORE HE CAN-- OH--*NO!*

I *FORGOT!!* I'M NOT WEARING MY *COSTUME!!* MY WEB-SHOOTER'S IN MY *BELT!*

YOU LOOK *DISAPPOINTED,* PARKER! ARE YOU BEGINNING TO REALIZE HOW *HOPELESS* YOUR PITIFUL PLIGHT IS?

HE'S *TAUNTING* ME! HE *KNOWS* THE SPOT I'M IN! AND I CAN'T *POSSIBLY* SWITCH TO MY SPIDEY-SUIT BEFORE HE *STRIKES!*

BUT WHAT OF *AUNT MAY?* WHAT IF SHE COMES TO THE *WINDOW*-- EVEN *NOW?*

SO TORN BY WORRY AND DOUBT IS PETER PARKER, THAT HIS NORMALLY LIGHTNING-SWIFT REFLEXES FAIL TO COME TO HIS AID BEFORE BEFORE THE *GOBLIN* CAN LAUNCH HIS CUNNING *ATTACK--!*

A *SMOKE SCREEN!!* TOOK ME BY SURPRISE-- FILLING MY LUNGS-- *CHOKING* ME--!

THE GREAT *SPIDER-MAN*-- NOTHING MORE THAN A CALLOW YOUTH--A PATHETIC *STRIPLING!*

IT IS ALMOST AN *INSULT* TO MY OWN GREAT POWERS FOR ME TO BATTLE ONE AS *OUTCLASSED* AS *YOU* ARE!

BUT, HOW YOU SHALL NOW *PAY*--TO MAKE UP FOR THE MANY TIMES YOU'VE *ESCAPED* ME IN THE PAST!

AND, EVEN AS THE TWO ARCH-FOES FACE EACH OTHER--POSSIBLY FOR THE LAST TIME--WITHIN THE HOUSE WE FIND--

IS IT MERELY MY *IMAGINATION*, OR DO I KEEP HEARING THE STRANGEST *SOUNDS* OUT THERE?

I'D BETTER HAVE A LOOK THRU THE WINDOW--

OH DEAR--I CAN'T SEE A *THING!* THERE'S SOME SORT OF DENSE *FOG* OUTSIDE!

BUT, THAT'S *MOST* PECULIAR! IT WAS A CLEAR SPRING NIGHT, JUST A FEW MINUTES AGO! WHERE ON EARTH COULD THIS FOG HAVE *COME* FROM?

POOR *PETER!* OUT THERE ALONE ON SUCH A DARK, FOG-SHROUDED EVENING!

I *DO* WISH HE WERE HOME! HE'S A *FRAIL* YOUNG MAN--AND THE CITY CAN BE SO COLD--SO MERCILESS--!

BUT, AT THAT VERY SECOND, MAY PARKER'S "*FRAIL YOUNG MAN*" PREPARES TO GIVE A GOOD ACCOUNT OF HIMSELF AGAINST THE DEADLY *GREEN GOBLIN*--

EVEN *WITHOUT* MY COSTUME ON, I'VE STILL GOT MY SPIDER *POWERS*--

AND THIS IS *ONE* WAY TO GET *ABOVE* THE SMOKE AND THEREBY CLEAR MY LUNGS--!

IF ONLY I WEREN'T WORRIED ABOUT AUNT MAY *OVER-HEARING* US! I'M AFRAID TO HURL MYSELF HEADLONG INTO A FULL-FLEDGED ATTACK--AND YET--

HE'S COMING *BACK* TOWARDS ME--PREPARING TO UNLEASH ONE OF HIS *GOBLIN BLASTS*--!

AHH--YOU'RE *FAST*, PARKER--EVEN FASTER THAN I *REMEMBERED!*

BUT, I DON'T MIND IT IF YOU DRAG OUR BATTLE OUT A BIT! IT CAN ONLY MAKE THE SWEET SCENT OF *VICTORY* THAT MUCH MORE PALATABLE FOR ME AT THE END!

SKRAKK!

HE'S NOT PULLING ANY PUNCHES!

THAT BLAST COULD HAVE *FINISHED* ME!

NOW, JUST STAY WHERE YOU *ARE*, MY HAPLPSS HERO!

MY LITTLE FLYING *BAT MISSILE* WILL PUT AN END TO ALL YOUR PETTY CARES AND WOES-- *FOREVER!*

HIS MISSILE'S *JET-PROPELLED!* MY TIMING HAS TO BE *PERFECT!*

NOW!

AHH, *WELL DONE*, PARKER! SEEING YOU DRESSED LIKE ANY AVERAGE YOUTH, I TEND TO *FORGET* YOUR DAZZLING *SPIDER SPEED!*

BUT, ALAS, YOU HAVE ONLY WON YOURSELF A *TEMPORARY* MOMENT OF RESPITE--!

THIRRRRRR!

HE'S DIVING *CLOSE* AGAIN!! NOW'S MY *CHANCE*--!

I'VE *GOT* TO GET HIM NOW-- I'VE *GOT* TO! FOR THE SAKE OF *AUNT MAY!*

EVERY SECOND LONGER THAT WE FIGHT OUT HERE, BRINGS HER A MINUTE CLOSER TO DISCOVERING MY *SECRET!*

ALL RIGHT, GOBLIN-- YOU'VE *HAD* YOUR FUN--AND NOW IT'S TIME FOR *ME* TO GET IN A FEW LICKS!

SPOKEN WITH THE TRUE SPIRIT OF DERRING-DO, YOU BUMBLING YOUNG INCOMPETENT! A PITY THAT YOUR *WORDS* SHALL PROVE AS USELESS AS YOUR OVERRATED *POWERS!*

AND, LEST I DO NOT MAKE MYSELF CLEAR, PERHAPS A LITTLE DEMONSTRATION SHALL SUFFICE?

ZZZAKK!

NOW THAT I'VE STAGGERED YOU, IT'S TIME FOR MY NEWEST GOBLIN'S SURPRISE!

Here's a PRESENT, little man-- Try to CATCH it if you CAN!

SSSSSSSSSSSSSSSS

CAN'T SEE! THOSE SPARKS--THEY WERE TOO BRIGHT--!!

AND THEN, BEFORE THE AMAZING ADVENTURER CAN REGAIN HIS VISION--

EVEN YOUR MUCH-VAUNTED SPIDER POWER CANNOT RESIST A ASPHYXIATION GRENADE!

ARRHHHHH--!

IT WAS WITH JUST SUCH A TRINKET THAT I ONCE STOPPED THE HUMAN TORCH HIMSELF COLD IN HIS TRACKS!

THWOP!

FOR WHO CAN CONTINUE TO FIGHT WHEN THE OXYGEN IS PREVENTED FROM REACHING HIS LUNGS?

ANY OTHER FOE WOULD HAVE BEEN COMPLETELY UNCONSCIOUS--PERHAPS EVEN NEAR DEATH!

BUT PARKER IS MERELY STUNNED! HIS SPIDER STRENGTH IS EVERYTHING THEY SAY IT IS!

THEREFORE, I MUST TAKE NO FURTHER CHANCES WITH HIM!

NOTHING BUT THIS PLIABLE STEEL ALLOY CAN POSSIBLY SERVE TO BIND HIM SECURELY ENOUGH!

SO IT IS, WHEN PETER PARKER HAS FULLY RECOVERED HIS SENSES, HE FINDS--

I'M IN THE AIR --BOUND AND HELPLESS-- THE GOBLIN'S PRISONER!

NO MATTER WHERE HE'S TAKING ME, I'M GRATEFUL THAT WE'RE GOING AWAY FROM AUNT MAY!

I'VE DEFEATED YOU AT LAST! THE GREEN GOBLIN HAS WON THE ONLY BATTLE THAT COUNTS--

--THE FINAL BATTLE!

BUT NOW, IT'S TIME FOR US TO TAKE A LITTLE JOURNEY!

THE WATERFRONT! HE MUST BE TAKING ME TO HIS HIDEOUT!

BUT, WHY--?

EXACTLY FORTY SECONDS LATER--

I MIGHT BE ABLE TO *BREAK* THESE STEEL ALLOY BONDS--IF I HAVE ENOUGH *TIME!*

BUT--HOW MUCH TIME WILL HE *GIVE* ME?

YOU ARE PROBABLY WONDERING WHAT *FATE* I HAVE IN STORE FOR YOU--!

WELL, REST ASSURED IT WILL BE ONE YOU *DESERVE!*

I'VE GOT TO STALL FOR *TIME*--SOMEHOW!

YOU MIGHT AS WELL FINISH ME OFF RIGHT *NOW*--BECAUSE IF YOU DELAY, I'LL END UP BEATING *YOU*--AS I DID IN THE *PAST!*

YOU *NEVER* BEAT ME!! THOSE WERE JUST *ACCIDENTS*--DO YOU HEAR--?? *ACCIDENTS!* YOU CAN'T RUSH ME NOW!! YOU'LL *NEVER* ESCAPE!

IT'S *WORKING!* HIS INSANE *PRIDE* WON'T LET HIM DO WHAT I SUGGESTED!

AND NOW, BEFORE YOU MEET YOUR END, I'VE ONE FINAL *SURPRISE* IN STORE FOR YOU--!

THAT'S *IT!* KEEP TALKING--BRAGGING--RANTING--*ANYTHING!!* JUST SO LONG AS I HAVE A LITTLE WHILE TO STRAIN AGAINST THESE COILS!

SINCE YOU'LL NEVER *LIVE* TO BETRAY ME TO ANOTHER SOUL, IT'S ONLY FITTING THAT YOU LEARN THE *IDENTITY* OF THE ONE WHO HAS *BEATEN* YOU!

AND SO, AT LONG LAST--THE *GREEN GOBLIN* WILL INTRODUCE HIMSELF--

TAKE A *LOOK,* PARKER--A GOOD, *LONG* LOOK--IT'S THE LAST FACE *SPIDER-MAN* WILL EVER SEE--

IT'S THE *REAL* FACE OF THE GREEN GOBLIN--THE FACE OF *NORMAN OSBORN!*

THOSE FEATURES!! THAT *NAME!* OF *COURSE*--YOU'RE RELATED TO MY OWN *CLASSMATE!!* YOU'RE *HARRY OSBORN'S FATHER!*

NEXT ISSUE:

"SPIDEY SAVES THE DAY!"

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN!

"SPIDEY SAVES THE DAY!"

FEATURING:

THE END OF THE GREEN GOBLIN!

IF YOU MISSED OUR LAST ISH BECAUSE YOU WERE ORBITING EARTH ON A SPACE SHIP (THE ONLY ACCEPTABLE REASON FOR A TRUE SPIDOPHILE'S COPPING OUT), ALL WE NEED TELL YOU IS THAT SPIDEY HAS BEEN CAPTURED AND UNMASKED BY THE **GREEN GOBLIN**... ONLY TO LEARN THAT HIS UBIQUITOUS ENEMY IS NONE OTHER THAN **NORMAN OSBORN,** FATHER OF PETER'S COLLEGE CLASSMATE, HARRY OSBORN! AND NOW, TIGER, YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN...

TAKE A LOOK AT MY **FACE,** PARKER... A GOOD, **LONG** LOOK! IT'S THE **LAST** FACE YOU'LL EVER SEE... IN THIS LIFE!

I'VE GOT TO STALL FOR **TIME**... KEEP HIM **TALKING**... WHILE I STRAIN AGAINST THESE **STEEL ALLOY COILS** HE'S TIED ME WITH!

I SHOULD HAVE **KNOWN** IT WOULD BE **YOU,** OSBORN! ANYONE WHO'D HAVE A SON LIKE **HARRY**..!

HARRY?? YOU **KNOW** MY SON?!!

CONCEIVED IN FANTASY, AND DEDICATED TO THE PROPOSITION THAT ALL MARVELITES ARE ENTITLED TO LIFE, LIBERTY, AND THE PURSUIT OF COMIC BOOK QUALITY! SO SAY WE ALL!

STAN LEE	JOHN ROMITA	MICKEY DEMEO	SAM ROSEN
WRITER	*PENCILER*	*INKER*	*LETTERER*

YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE *MENTIONED* HARRY! WHY DID YOU *REMIND* ME OF HIM?

I MUSTN'T *THINK* OF HIM, DO YOU HEAR! I MUST FORGET... *FORGET!*

HE THINKS I'M JUST A SIMPLE *BUSINESSMAN!* HE MUST NEVER KNOW THE TRUTH--- *NEVER!*

AND HE *WON'T!* YOU'LL NEVER TELL HIM! I WON'T *LET* YOU!

THAT'S *ANOTHER* REASON WHY YOU MUST *DIE*, PARKER! ONLY *YOU* KNOW WHO THE GREEN GOBLIN IS!... JUST AS *I* KNOW WHO *SPIDER-MAN* REALLY IS!

BUT WHAT HE *DOESN'T* KNOW IS... I'M JUST AS WORRIED ABOUT *AUNT MAY* LEARNING *MY* SECRET IDENTITY AS *HE* IS ABOUT HARRY LEARNING *HIS!*

I'VE *GOT* TO GET OUT OF THIS SOMEHOW.. FOR *HER* SAKE! THE SHOCK WOULD BE MORE THAN SHE COULD BEAR!

I CAN *TELL* THAT YOU'RE STRUGGLING TO BREAK THOSE COILS, PARKER! HOW I *ENJOY* WATCHING YOUR FUTILE, TORTURED EFFORTS!

THAT'S IT, MISTER... STAND THERE AND *GLOAT*... WHILE I KEEP TUGGING AT THESE BLASTED BONDS!

BUT, ENOUGH TALK! NOW I MUST FIND THE MOST *SUITABLE* MANNER OF ENDING YOUR INTERFERENCE FOREVER!

SPIDEY, IF YOU'VE EVER THOUGHT FAST... AND TALKED FASTER... YOU'VE GOTTA DO IT *NOW!*

I THINK THE COILS ARE *LOOSEN-ING!* ALL I NEED IS *TIME!*

GREAT WORK, GOBBY! IT'LL MAKE A REAL *CELEBRITY* OUT OF YOUR SON, HARRY! NOT *EVERY* FELLA CAN HAVE A MURDERER IN THE FAMILY!

I *WARNED* YOU! DON'T *MENTION* HIM!

WHY *NOT?* WHAT HAVE I GOT TO *LOSE?* YOU CAN ONLY POLISH ME OFF *ONCE!*

OSBORN IS OBVIOUSLY A *PSYCHOPATH!* I'VE GOT TO PLAY ON HIS EMOTIONS... GOT TO KEEP HITTING HIM WHERE IT *HURTS!*

ANYWAY, YOU'RE NOT FOOLING *ME!* YOU DON'T GIVE A *HOOT* ABOUT HARRY! HE TOLD ME *SO HIMSELF!* HE TOLD ME HOW YOU'VE *CHANGED* TOWARDS HIM THESE PAST FEW YEARS!

LIES! ALL LIES! HE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND! *NOBODY* UNDER-STANDS! NOBODY REALLY KNOWS *WHY* I BECAME THE GREEN GOBLIN!

I WAS *RIGHT!* HE'S A REAL MENTAL CASE! MY ONLY CHANCE IS TO KEEP *TAUNTING* HIM!

BUT, I'VE GOT TO BE *CAREFUL!* ONE WRONG WORD COULD MAKE HIM *VIOLENT*... AND THEN, BYE-BYE SPIDEY!

BIG DEAL! WHO *CARES* WHY YOU BECAME THE GREEN GOBLIN? YOU PROBABLY LOST AN *ELECTION BET* OR SOMETHING! WHAT DOES IT MATTER?

YOU *FOOL!* I'LL *SHOW* YOU WHAT IT MATTERS! I'LL *MAKE* YOU LISTEN! THEN YOU'LL *UNDERSTAND!*

GOOD! IT'S *WORKING!*

I HOPE IT'LL BE A *LONG* STORY! I'VE ONLY MANAGED TO LOOSEN ONE SINGLE FINGER SO FAR! THE WAY HE TIED ME... I CAN'T EXERT ENOUGH *LEVERAGE*..!

HARRY'S *MOTHER* PASSED AWAY WHEN HE WAS JUST A BABY! I HAD TO BRING HIM UP *ALONE*...AND I TRIED MY BEST..!

SURE, SURE! THEY'LL PROBABLY ELECT YOU *FATHER OF THE YEAR*... BEFORE THE JUDGE SENDS YOU AWAY!

"I *WAS* A GOOD FATHER...I *WAS*! I DID MY BEST TO BE A REAL *PAL* TO MY SON! BUT, IT WASN'T *EASY*--!"

YOU'LL HAVE TO HAVE DINNER *ALONE* TONIGHT, SON! I HAVE TO WORK LATE AGAIN!

THAT'S OKAY, DAD! I UNDERSTAND!

SCHOOL BUS

"AFTER ALL--I HAD A *BUSINESS* TO TAKE CARE OF! *MONEY* WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING OF ALL! I HAD TO GET *RICH*! I NEEDED *WEALTH*--FOR THAT WAS THE KEY TO *POWER*!"

YOU'LL HAVE TO WORK THESE PROBLEMS OUT *YOURSELF*, HARRY! I'VE GOT TO GET BACK TO THE *OFFICE* NOW!

BUT YOU *SAID* YOU'D REVIEW MY *BIO* WITH ME! I'VE AN *EXAM* TOMORROW!

YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO DO THE BEST YOU CAN!

"BUT, HARRY DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO *COMPLAIN* ABOUT! THE MORE MONEY I MADE, THE MORE *PRESENTS* I BOUGHT HIM! I WANTED EVERYONE TO *SEE* WHAT A GREAT FATHER HE HAD!"

GO ON, SON...*TAKE* IT! I JUST BOUGHT IT FOR YOU--AS A SURPRISE!

IT'LL GIVE YOU SOMETHING TO *DO* WHILE I'M OUT OF TOWN ON BUSINESS NEXT MONTH!

OH... THANKS, DAD..!

"I EVEN TOOK HIM TO *BALL GAMES* WHEN I HAD A CHANCE! NOBODY CAN SAY I WASN'T A PERFECT FATHER, DO YOU HEAR..? *NOBODY!*"

DAD, DO YOU THINK... MAYBE WE CAN *TALK* FOR A WHILE..?

SURE, HARRY, SURE! BUT WATCH THE *GAME* NOW! WE DON'T WANNA *MISS* ANY OF THIS!

BUT...WE NEVER HAVE A CHANCE..!

LATER, KID! LATER--!

HE'S SICKER THAN I *THOUGHT*! HE'S LIVING IN A *FANTASY WORLD* OF HIS OWN MAKING! HE'S ALMOST *FORGOTTEN* ME!

BUT, HIS STORY HAS ME *HOOKED* NOW! I *STILL* CAN'T FIGURE OUT WHAT MADE HIM BECOME THE *GREEN GOBLIN*!

HOW COULD I EXPECT HARRY TO UNDERSTAND HOW *HARD* I HAD TO WORK IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE *SUCCESS*..?

"I HAD TO BE *RUTHLESS* IN BUSINESS! I ALLOWED *NO ONE* TO STAND IN MY WAY...NOT EVEN MY *PARTNER*... A MAN NAMED *PROFESSOR STROMM*...!*"

OSBORN! WE'RE *PARTNERS*! YOU CAN'T *DO* THIS TO ME!

I WORKED TO BUILD THIS BUSINESS *WITH* YOU! MOST OF THE INVENTIONS ARE *MINE*! YOU CAN'T TURN *AGAINST* ME LIKE THIS!

I ONLY *BORROWED* THAT MONEY FROM OUR ACCOUNT! YOU *KNOW* I DIDN'T MEAN TO STEAL IT! IF YOU CALL THE POLICE... I'LL BE *RUINED*!

IT'S TOO LATE FOR THAT, STROMM! I'VE *ALREADY* SENT FOR THEM!

*REMEMBER STONY-FACED STROMM FROM SPIDEY#37? *SURE* YOU DO! ...*SMILEY*.

"PERHAPS I *WAS* TOO HARD ON STROMM ... BUT IT WAS HIS OWN FAULT FOR BEING CARELESS ... AND IT GAVE ME COMPLETE CONTROL OF MY BUSINESS!"

YOU'LL *PAY* FOR THIS, OSBORN! I WON'T BE IN JAIL *FOREVER* ... AND WHEN I GET OUT ... I'LL HAVE MY *REVENGE!* I *SWEAR* IT!

YOU ALWAYS *WERE* TOO EMOTIONAL, STROMM! THAT LITTLE OUTBURST OF YOURS DOESN'T IMPRESS ME A BIT!

TAKE HIM AWAY, GENTLEMEN! I'LL BE IN COURT TO PREFER CHARGES IN THE MORNING!

SO *THAT'S* WHY STROMM TRIED TO KILL YOU WITH THAT *ROBOT* OF HIS! AND THAT'S WHY YOU RESENTED *SPIDER-MAN'S* HELP!

WHAT A JOKE! *ME*, TRYING TO SAVE THE *GREEN GOBLIN!*

UH-OH! HE'S TOO *QUIET!* I'VE GOTTA GET HIM *TALKING* AGAIN!

I *STILL* DON'T GET IT, OSBORN! YOU BECAME WEALTHY ... SUCCESSFUL! YOU ACHIEVED YOUR GOAL ---

SO, WHAT MADE YOU TURN TO *CRIME?* WHAT MADE YOU BECOME THE *GREEN GOBLIN?*

I'VE TOLD YOU *SO* MUCH ... I MIGHT AS WELL TELL YOU THE *REST!* AFTER ALL, MY SECRET WILL DIE *WITH* YOU!

NOT IF *I* CAN HELP IT, MISTER!

THERE! THAT'S *ANOTHER* FINGER I MANAGED TO WORK LOOSE!

SO? WHAT HAPPENED? DID YOU WIN A GREEN COSTUME IN A *RAFFLE*, OR SOMETHING?

YOU'RE *MOCKING* ME, ARE YOU--?

"WELL, IT'S ALL RIGHT! YOU MAY *HAVE* YOUR LITTLE JOKE! IT'S THE *LAST* YOU'LL EVER ENJOY! AS FOR *ME*, I STILL REMEMBER THAT FATEFUL NIGHT ... WHEN IT *HAPPENED* --!"

THESE NOTES OF STROMM'S ... WHICH I FOUND IN HIS DESK ... CONTAIN SOME NEW, STRANGE-LOOKING *FORMULAS!*

SINCE HE'S IN *PRISON* NOW, I'LL CHECK THEM OUT! IF THEY'RE *WORTH* ANYTHING, I'LL BE ABLE TO CASH IN ON THEM!

"AND THEN, *HARRY* CAME IN ... BUT I COULDN'T BE BOTHERED WITH HIM AT A TIME LIKE THAT ...

DAD, HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN? IT'S *PARENTS' NIGHT* AT MY SCHOOL THIS EVENING! WE SHOULD *BE* THERE BY NOW!

FORGET IT, SON! I CAN'T MAKE IT NOW! YOU GO ON AHEAD ... MAYBE I'LL GET THERE BEFORE IT'S OVER!

BUT, I THOUGHT ...!

I SAID *FORGET IT!*

"IT'S A GOOD THING I *DIDN'T* GO ... BECAUSE, IF I *HAD* ... I MIGHT NEVER HAVE BECOME THE *GREEN GOBLIN!*"

"INSTEAD, I STAYED AND WORKED THROUGH THE NIGHT ... HOUR AFTER HOUR ... UNTIL, JUST BEFORE DAWN ..."

THE SOLUTION IS TURNING *GREEN!* BUT ... *WHY?* WHAT DOES IT *MEAN?*

IT'S BEGINNING TO *BUBBLE* ... TO *FROTH* ... AND THAT *SOUND* ... IT'S *STEAMING* ...!

4.

"AND THEN ... A SECOND LATER ... THE WORLD *EXPLODED* BEFORE ME ...!"

KA-BOOM!

"I WAS IN THE HOSPITAL FOR *WEEKS*, AS THE BEST SURGEONS IN THE STATE WORKED NIGHT AND DAY TO SAVE MY LIFE!"

THE DAMAGE IS DEEP WITHIN HIS *BRAIN!* BUT...THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN *REACH* IT!

AT LEAST WE'VE SAVED HIS *LIFE!* HIS RECOVERY SHOULD BE RAPID NOW!

"THE *FOOLS!* THEY THOUGHT MY BRAIN HAD BEEN *DAMAGED!* THEY DIDN'T SUSPECT THAT THE ACCIDENT MADE ME MORE *BRILLIANT* THAN I HAD EVER *BEEN!* NO ONE SUSPECTED ... NOT EVEN MY *SON!*"

YOU MAY SEE YOUR FATHER NOW...

POOR DAD! IT'S ALL *MY* FAULT! HE MUST HAVE BEEN OVERWORKED, TIRED ... TRYING TO EARN ENOUGH MONEY TO SUPPORT *ME!*

"BUT, I HAD NO *PATIENCE* WITH HARRY ... OR WITH *ANYBODY!* I WANTED TO BE ALONE ... TO THINK ... TO *PLAN!* SO, A FEW DAYS LATER ..."

GO DOWNSTAIRS AND CALL A *TAXI!* I'M GETTING *OUT* OF HERE!

AND GET THAT *HANG-DOG* LOOK OFF YOUR FACE! IT *BOTHERS* ME!

HOW DID SOMEONE LIKE *ME* EVER HAVE A SNIVELING WEAKLING OF A SON LIKE *YOU?!!*

DAD...WHAT'S *WRONG?* WHY ARE YOU *ANGRY* AT ME? WHA... WHAT HAVE I *DONE?*

YOU HAVEN'T DONE *ANYTHING!* THAT'S THE *TROUBLE!* YOU'RE A SPINELESS JELLYFISH... LIKE EVERYONE *ELSE!*

NOW BE *QUIET!* I'VE GOT TO *CONCENTRATE!*

"ALTHOUGH NOBODY *KNEW* IT, MY ACCIDENT HAD MADE ME THINK *CLEARER* THAN EVER BEFORE! SUDDENLY, A DARING *PLAN* TOOK SHAPE IN MY MIND ..!"

I'M STRONGER ... SMARTER ... *TOUGHER* THAN ANYONE ELSE! AND I HAVE ALL SORTS OF *SCIENTIFIC DEVICES* IN MY CHEMICAL COMPANY THAT I CAN USE!

I COULD BECOME THE GREATEST *COSTUMED CRIMINAL* OF ALL TIME!!

"THE IDEA BECAME AN *OBSESSION* WITH ME! IT HAUNTED ME NIGHT AND DAY! I KNEW I HAD TO *DO* IT! AND SO, MANY MONTHS LATER ..."

THE *FACE* IS PERFECT! NOW TO DESIGN THE *REST* OF THE *COSTUME!*

I'LL MAKE IT MY FAVORITE COLOR... *GREEN!*

"AND SO...AT LAST...THE *GREEN GOBLIN* WAS BORN!"

NOW FOR MY FIRST *VICTIM*...

THE AMAZING *SPIDER-MAN* HIMSELF!

I SELECTED *YOU* BECAUSE I KNEW THE UNDERWORLD WOULD RESPECT ANYONE WHO COULD *DEFEAT* YOU! BUT, YOU *THWARTED* ME DURING OUR FIRST ENCOUNTER!

I'M AWFULLY SORRY TO HAVE BEEN SO UNCOOPERATIVE!

I'M STILL *NOWHERE* WITH THESE COILS!! HOW MUCH LONGER CAN I KEEP HIM *TALKING*?

BUT NOW, THE TIME HAS COME FOR THE *GREEN GOBLIN* TO ACHIEVE HIS GREATEST *TRIUMPH*!

I'VE WAITED *MONTHS* FOR THIS SUPREME MOMENT... FOR THIS VICTORY WHICH FATE COULD NEVER *DENY* ME!

I *CAN'T* GIVE UP NOW... I *MUSTN'T*! FOR THE SAKE OF *AUNT MAY*! BUT...THE STEEL ALLOY IS TOO *STRONG*...I...I STILL CAN'T *SNAP* IT!!

HOW *FITTING* IT IS THAT THE FACE OF THE *GREEN GOBLIN* SHALL BE THE *LAST* SIGHT YOU'LL EVER BEHOLD... IN THIS LIFETIME!

HE WAS JUST A GREEDY, RUTHLESS *BUSINESSMAN* BEFORE HIS ACCIDENT... BUT THE CHEMICAL *CHANGED* HIM ...FOR THE WORSE!

BUT, I MUSTN'T LET THE END BE TOO *EASY* FOR YOU...!

NOW, WHAT DO I *DO*? HOW DO YOU REASON WITH A *MADMAN*?!!

FIRST, YOU MUST *SIT* THERE... HELPLESSLY... AND WONDER *HOW* I SHALL STRIKE... AND AT WHAT PRECISE *INSTANT* YOU'LL PERISH!

THEY SAY A MAN'S *ENTIRE LIFE* FLASHES BEFORE HIM IN A MOMENT OF DEADLY CRISIS! AND, SO IT IS WITH *PETER PARKER* ...

I'M NOT AFRAID TO DIE! I'VE FACED THE GRIM REAPER TOO MANY TIMES IN THE PAST! BUT, NEVER TO SEE *BETTY BRANT* AGAIN... NEVER TO BE ABLE TO EXPLAIN TO *AUNT MAY*...

BEG, PARKER! PLEAD FOR MERCY! WHY WON'T YOU *BEG*??

BUT, EVEN AS THE ANGUISHED YOUTH DESPERATELY CONTINUES TO STRAIN AGAINST HIS BONDS, TRYING TO SHUT OUT THE GOBLIN'S TAUNTS... AT A MODEST FRAME HOUSE IN FOREST HILLS, WE FIND...

OH, ANNA DEAR... I'M *SO GLAD* YOU COULD COME! I-I'M SO *WORRIED!*

NOW, NOW, MAY! YOU *KNOW* THE DOCTOR TOLD YOU THAT YOU MUSTN'T GET UPSET!

I'M *SURE* IT CAN'T BE ANYTHING *SERIOUS!*

BUT, PETER HAS *NEVER* STAYED AWAY SO LONG... WITHOUT EVEN *CALLING!*

HE'S ALWAYS BEEN SUCH A *GOOD* BOY... BUT HE'S *SO* FRAIL! I KNOW SOMETHING MUST HAVE *HAPPENED!* I JUST *KNOW* IT!

MAY PARKER! I'M *SURPRISED* AT YOU! YOU GET *HOLD* OF YOURSELF THIS VERY MINUTE!

WHAT WOULD *PETER* SAY IF HE SAW YOU LIKE, THIS?

HE'S PROBABLY OUT ON A DATE... HAVING A GOOD TIME... AND HE DOESN'T REALIZE HOW *LATE* IT IS!

EVEN MY *MARY JANE* HAS COME HOME LATE OCCASIONALLY!

BUT... I JUST CAN'T HELP *WORRYING...!*

WAIT A MINUTE! DOESN'T HE SOMETIMES SELL PHOTOGRAPHS TO *MR. JAMESON*, AT THE "DAILY BUGLE"?

PERHAPS HE'S AT JAMESON'S OFFICE RIGHT *NOW!* NEWSPAPER BUILDINGS STAY OPEN ALL NIGHT!

PLEASE, ANNA... *YOU* CALL! I-I'M TOO *NERVOUS!*

OF *COURSE*, DEAR! I'LL DO IT RIGHT NOW!

BUT, AFTER FINALLY GETTING PAST AN OVERWORKED SECRETARY...

NO! PARKER *ISN'T* HERE! WHAT AM *I* SUPPOSED TO BE... A *LOST AND FOUND* DEPARTMENT?!!

HE'S PROBABLY OUT STEALING HUBCAPS SOMEWHERE!

EMPTY-HEADED TEENAGERS! THEY'RE ALL *ALIKE!*

MISS BROWN!! COME IN HERE... WITH YOUR *NOTEBOOK!*

I WANT TO DICTATE AN *EDITORIAL* ABOUT HOW THE YOUNGER GENERATION'S GOING TO THE *DOGS!*

THEN I'LL DO ONE ABOUT THE *OLDER* GENERATION, TOO!

MIGHT AS WELL BLAST *EVERYONE!*

SLAM!

AND, AFTER MRS. WATSON HAS GIVEN MAY PARKER THE NEWS... AS GENTLY AS POSSIBLE...

YOU *MUSTN'T* WORRY, DEAR! THERE ARE SO MANY *OTHER* PLACES HE MIGHT BE!

ANNA, YOU DON'T *KNOW* PETER THE WAY *I* DO!

HE'S THE MOST *CONSIDERATE* BOY IN THE WORLD!

HE'D *NEVER* STAY OUT LATE WITHOUT *CALLING* ME!

...UNLESS... SOMETHING'S *HAPPENED...!*

HE MIGHT BE IN *TROUBLE* SOMEWHERE! HE MIGHT *NEED* ME! IF ONLY I *KNEW!*

I'M GOING *OUT* FOR A MOMENT, MAY... BUT I'LL BE RIGHT *BACK*, HEAR? YOU JUST WAIT RIGHT THERE, DEAR... AND TRY NOT TO WORRY!

OH, PETER... PETER...

SHE'S GETTING OVERWROUGHT! SHE NEEDS A *SEDATIVE!* I'VE GOT TO CALL DR. BROMWELL!

MEANWHILE, AT A RAILROAD STATION IN THE MIDWEST, ANOTHER FEMALE WHO HAS PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE LIFE OF PETER PARKER PAUSES BETWEEN TRAINS..

I *MUST* RETURN TO NEW YORK! I REALIZE NOW THAT A GIRL CAN NEVER RUN FROM A DECISION..

NO MATTER *HOW* PAINFUL IT MAY BE!

THIS IS *ART ROBERTS*, AT STATION *WLS* IN CHICAGO, WONDERING WHY NOTHING HAS BEEN HEARD OF *SPIDER-MAN* THESE PAST FEW DAYS...

SPIDER-MAN!! THE MASKED ADVENTURER WHOM PETER ADMIRES! HOW I HATE THE VERY SOUND OF HIS NAME!

HE REPRESENTS EVERYTHING I DREAD... *DANGER... UNCERTAINTY...* AND *FEAR!*

BUT, WHY DWELL ON SPIDER-MAN WHEN I HAVE A FAR *BIGGER* PROBLEM!?

IF I RETURN TO THE *DAILY BUGLE*, WILL MR. JAMESON GIVE ME MY OLD JOB BACK?

AND, IF HE DOES... WHAT WILL IT BE LIKE, SEEING *PETER PARKER* AND *NED LEEDS* AGAIN?

AND, WHAT WILL THEY SAY WHEN THEY SEE *ME?* WILL THERE STILL BE A PLACE IN THEIR LIVES FOR... *BETTY BRANT?*

THUS, THE SAD-EYED GIRL WALKS THROUGH THE STATION, IMMERSED IN HER OWN TROUBLED THOUGHTS... AND STRANGELY UNABLE TO ERASE THE HAUNTING IMAGE OF A COSTUMED FIGURE... A FIGURE WHO SEEMS TO SOMEHOW OVERSHADOW ALL ELSE AS HE SILENTLY SWINGS FROM MEMORY TO MEMORY...!

WHY... *WHY* DOES THE VISION OF *SPIDER-MAN* KEEP REAPPEARING IN MY BRAIN...?

WHEN I THINK OF ALL THE TIMES I'VE *SEEN* SPIDER-MAN... SPOKEN TO HIM... AND YET, HE'S AN *ENIGMA!*

HE COULD BE *ANYBODY*... EVEN SOMEONE WHOM I *KNOW!*

BUT... I HOPE... AND *PRAY*... THAT HE *ISN'T!* I COULDN'T *STAND* IT IF HE WERE SOMEONE CLOSE TO ME... SOMEONE WHOM I *LOVE!*

22

ALL ABOARRRD!

PERHAPS, WHEN I RETURN TO NEW YORK... AND SEE *PETER* AGAIN... I'LL BE ABLE TO *FORGET* ABOUT SPIDER-MAN... *FOREVER!*

18

AS YOU PROBABLY GUESSED BY NOW, THE PAGES YOU'VE JUST READ ARE A TYPICAL MARVEL DEVICE FOR BRINGING NEW READERS UP TO DATE AS PAINLESSLY AS POSSIBLE! (WE JUST DIDN'T WANT YOU TO THINK YOU'D PICKED UP A ROMANCE BOOK BY MISTAKE!) BUT NOW, *FACE FRONT!* IT'LL BE *WEB-SPINNIN'* TIME BEFORE YOU KNOW IT...!

SO! YOU THINK YOU CAN ROB ME OF MY *SATISFACTION* BY SITTING THERE WITH YOUR EYES CLOSED!

WELL, IT WON'T *WORK!!*

THAT'S *IT*, GOBLIN! RANT AND RAVE AT ME... SAY *ANYTHING*... JUST SO LONG AS YOU KEEP *TALKING!*

IF ONLY I CAN KEEP *GOADING* HIM!

YOU'RE A *WASHOUT*, MAN! I BEAT YOU EVERY TIME WE FOUGHT BEFORE... AND I'LL FIND A WAY TO BEAT YOU *AGAIN!*

NO! YOU *LIE*... DO YOU *HEAR??* YOU *LIE!* YOU *NEVER* BEAT ME!!

I'LL *PROVE* IT TO YOU!

I CAN PROJECT *MENTAL PICTURES* OF OUR PREVIOUS BATTLES BY MEANS OF THIS *RETRO-SCOPE* HELMET!

I'LL *SHOW* YOU THAT YOU NEVER BEAT ME! I WAS *ALWAYS* YOUR MASTER!! *ALWAYS!*

SURE! SURE! *ANYTHING* TO GIVE ME MORE *TIME!*

THERE! I'M SURE YOU REMEMBER *THOSE* THREE!

THE *ENFORCERS!* IT WAS THE FIRST TIME WE FOUGHT... YOU USED THEM TO *HELP* YOU!*

CLICK!

* *SPIDEY* #14, NATCH!--STAN.

BUT, HOW DOES *THIS* PROVE ANYTHING? I WAS ABLE TO LICK THEM *ALL! THERE*... YOU CAN *SEE* IT!

BUT YOU DIDN'T BEAT *ME!*

THAT BATTLE TAUGHT ME A *LESSON!* IT TAUGHT ME THAT *NO ONE* CAN DO MY FIGHTING FOR ME! *NO ONE* IS AS GREAT AS THE *GREEN GOBLIN!*

THAT SO? JUST CUT THESE *STEEL COILS* FROM MY WRISTS, AND IT'LL BE THE GOBLIN'S *LAST GOBBLE!*

NEVER! YOU *HAD* YOUR CHANCE... AND YOU *MUFFED* IT!

THEN, THE NEXT TIME WE FOUGHT, YOU WERE SAVED BY THE SUDDEN APPEARANCE OF THE *HUMAN TORCH...!**

BUT I HAD NO DESIRE TO FIGHT *HIM!* IT WAS *YOU* WHO WERE THE ENEMY!

*SPIDEY #17... AS IF YOU DIDN'T KNOW! --S.

THEREFORE, I *FLED*... ALLOWING YOU TO *ESCAPE* ME! BUT, *YOU* DIDN'T BEAT ME... INSTEAD YOU WERE SIMPLY SAVED BY THE *TORCH!*

THAT'S *YOUR* VERSION, GOBLIN! FROM WHERE *I* SAT, YOU RAN LIKE A SCARED RABBIT!

YOU'LL *PAY* FOR THAT REMARK, PARKER!

BUT, ONCE AGAIN I MADE THE MISTAKE OF ALLYING MYSELF WITH OTHERS! SO IT WAS THAT *LUCKY LOBO* AND HIS GANG WERE MORE OF A *HINDRANCE* THAN A HELP WHEN NEXT WE MET!*

*IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE US, CHECK BACK TO *SPIDEY* #23! WE KID YOU NOT! --S.L.

NOT ONLY DID YOU FAIL TO *STOP* ME, BUT YOU WERE LUCKY THAT I LET YOU ESCAPE WITH YOUR *LIFE!*

A *PITY*, SPIDER-MAN, THAT YOU WILL NOT HAVE THAT SAME LUCK *THIS* TIME!

AND NOW, THE *FINAL* REMEMBRANCE ... BEFORE YOU MEET YOUR *END!*

DURING OUR MOST *RECENT* BATTLE, I HAD YOU COMPLETELY *BEATEN!* EVEN *YOU* CANNOT DENY THAT!

BUT, ONCE *AGAIN*, YOU WERE SAVED BY A STROKE OF FATE ... IN THE GUISE OF THE *CRIME-MASTER!**

*ALL TOGETHER NOW, CLASS: *"SPIDEY #27!"* SCHOLARLY STAN.

"THINKING HE WAS A MATCH FOR THE *GREEN GOBLIN*, THE MASKED FOOL DARED TO ATTACK ME ... ONCE AGAIN GIVING *YOU* A CHANCE TO ESCAPE!"

"YOU NEVER *WERE* ANY GOOD AS A *FIGHTER*, SPIDER-MAN!! YOU WERE MERELY *LUCKY!*"

"BUT, AS I FLEW OFF TO SAFETY, ON THAT FATEFUL DAY... ALLOWING YOU A FEW MONTHS MORE OF *LIFE*, I KNEW I WOULD AGAIN RETURN ... WHEN YOU LEAST EXPECTED ME... TO *FINISH* THE TASK I HAD SET FOR MYSELF...NAMELY..."

"...THE COMPLETE AND UN-DENIABLE *DESTRUCTION* OF THE AMAZING *SPIDER-MAN!*"

IT *WORKED!* I KEPT HIM TALKING LONG ENOUGH TO FREE *ONE HAND!* NOW, IT'LL JUST BE A MATTER OF *SECONDS* TO RIP THE *OTHER* COILS AWAY...!

SO! YOU'RE STILL STRUGGLING WITH YOUR BONDS, ARE YOU? I CAN TELL BY THE WAY YOUR *MUSCLES* ARE TENSED BENEATH YOUR SHIRT!

WELL, I'LL MAKE IT *EASY* FOR YOU ... SINCE YOU'RE ALREADY *DOOMED!*

IT WOULD HAVE BEEN AN *EMPTY VICTORY* TO DEFEAT A FOE WHO IS HELPLESSLY SHACKLED!

THEREFORE, I'LL *SET YOU FREE!* I'LL *PROVE* I'M YOUR MASTER!

YOUR FINAL THOUGHT ... BEFORE THE *END* COMES ... WILL BE THAT I GAVE YOU EVERY CHANCE ... AND *STILL* I DEFEATED YOU ... UTTERLY AND *ETERNALLY!*

YOU FAST-TALKING *PHONY!* YOU *KNEW* I WAS ABOUT TO BREAK LOOSE *ANYWAY!* *THAT'S* WHY THE GRAND-STAND PLAY!

OKAY, PARKER! THIS MAY BE THE MOST FATEFUL FIGHT OF YOUR *LIFE!* SO DON'T FUMBLE THE BALL, FELLA ... THERE'S TOO MUCH AT *STAKE!*

RRAKK!

DON'T JUST *STAND* THERE, YOU SNIVELING TEENAGED WASHOUT! PUT ON YOUR *COSTUME!*

DO YOU *HEAR* ME? I WANT TO DEFEAT YOU AS I'VE ALWAYS FOUGHT YOU... AS *SPIDER-MAN!*

HE REALLY THINKS HE *CAN* BEAT ME! HE KNOWS WE'RE GONNA FIGHT ON HIS HOME GROUNDS... WITH ALL THE ODDS IN *HIS* FAVOR!

OR SO HE *THINKS!*

ALL RIGHT, GOBLIN! YOU'RE GONNA *GET* YOUR WISH!

YOU'LL BATTLE *SPIDER-MAN*, ALL RIGHT! AND THIS TIME THERE'LL BE *NO DOUBT* AS TO WHO'S THE *WINNER!*

THIS IS THE *PAYOFF*, YOU GRINNING GARGOYLE! THIS IS FOR *REAL!*

BUT THEN, BEFORE THE YOUTHFUL ADVENTURER CAN MAKE ANOTHER MOVE, HE'S HURLED BACK OFF HIS FEET BY THE STAGGERING IMPACT OF TWO RAPIDLY-TOSSED *STUN BOMBS...!*

THWOK!

IT CERTAINLY *IS* FOR REAL... JUST AS THESE LITTLE *GOBLIN GOODIES* ARE FOR REAL!

AND, THIS IS ONLY THE *BEGINNING!!*

SPAKK!

I SHOULD HAVE *KNOWN!* HE WON'T MAKE IT *HAND-TO-HAND* IF HE CAN *HELP* IT!

THOSE WERE JUST WARM-UP STUNNERS... TO GET YOU IN THE *MOOD!*

THIS IS THE ONE THAT *COUNTS!* THIS IS MY SPECIAL *ANTI-SPIDER-MAN* EXPLOSIVE!

NICE TRY, GOBBY... BUT I'M NOT EXACTLY THE *HELPLESS* TYPE MYSELF!

THWIPP!

THAT ACCURSED *WEBBING* OF YOURS! HOW CAN YOU FORM IT SO *FAST?!!*

FAST? WHY SHUCKS... I'M JUST PLAYIN' IT COOL! YOU SHOULD *SEE* HOW SPEEDY I AM AGAINST A *REALLY* DANGEROUS ENEMY!

YOU *FOOL!* HURLING IT *BACK* WON'T HELP YOU! I CAN'T BE BEATEN BY MY *OWN* WEAPONS!

BWANNG!

HAVE YOU SO SOON *FORGOTTEN* THE PEERLESS *POWERS* WHICH THE GREEN GOBLIN POSSESSES?

BA-KOOOM!

SURE! JUST AS I'D FORGOTTEN WHAT A FULL-TIME, ECONOMY-SIZE *CORNBALL* YOU REALLY ARE!

SO! THE CONDEMNED MAN HELD ON TO HIS SLENDER FACADE OF WANING COURAGE TILL THE VERY *END*, EH?

HE'S HOPPING ON HIS JET-POWERED *GOBLIN GLIDER!* NOW HE'LL BE *TRICKIER*... MORE *MANEUVERABLE* THAN EVER!

MY *COMPLIMENTS*, SPIDER-MAN! TOO BAD YOUR *POWER* IS NOT EQUAL TO YOUR COURAGE!

LET ME CAUTION YOU AGAINST TRYING TO SNEAK UP *BEHIND* ME...

...UNLESS YOU *ENJOY* THE FULL BRUNT OF A *ROCKET BLAST!*

WHROOSH!

HE'S *TOYING* WITH ME! HE FEELS SO *CONFIDENT*, THAT HE'S WARNING ME IN ADVANCE!

I'VE NEVER BEEN *FACED* WITH A PROBLEM LIKE THIS BEFORE! EVEN *DEFEATING* HIM WON'T HELP ME...

FOR, SO LONG AS HE *LIVES*, HE KNOWS MY *SECRET IDENTITY!* AND, IF *AUNT MAY* EVER LEARNS OF IT... I *LOSE*... EVEN THOUGH I MAY HAVE *WON!*

HAH! YOU'RE GROGGY... CONFUSED...!

...AS I KNEW YOU *WOULD* BE!

SO, NOW I FINISH YOU OFF, AND... ≷*UNHHH!*≶

WOK!

THANKS, GOBBY! I *HOPED* YOU'D COME WITHIN REACH IF I ACTED HELPLESS ENOUGH!

MY FAMOUS FLYING BROOM-STICK... IT CRASHED INTO THE WALL... IT'S SHATTERED!

IT WAS... MY GREATEST WEAPON!! AND NOW... YOU'VE DESTROYED IT!

AWW, CUT IT OUT, GOBBY... UNLESS YOU WANNA SEE A GROWN MAN CRY!

SPLAM!

IS THIS IT? I NEVER THOUGHT I COULD BEAT HIM SO QUICKLY!

YET... WHAT DO I DO NOW? HE STILL KNOWS MY SECRET... AND I'M NOT A MURDERER!

BUT THEN, MOVING WITH THE DEADLY SPEED OF A STRIKING BOA, THE SEEMINGLY DEFEATED GOBLIN SEIZES ONE OF HIS FALLEN LIVE WIRES IN AN INSULATED GLOVE, AND...

THWIP!!

NOW, ISN'T THIS A SHOCKING DEVELOPMENT?

BLAST IT! NOW I'M THE ONE WHO WAS FOOLED! HE WAS JUST PLAYING POSSUM!

UNHHHH! ALL THOSE VOLTS OF CURRENT WOULD HAVE FINISHED AN ORDINARY MAN!

YEESH! HE'S THROWING EVERY-THING AT ME BUT THE KITCHEN SINK!

AND, IF HE COULD EVER FIT THAT IN HIS NUTTY BAG OF TRICKS, HE WOULD!

ZIK!

SOT!

FTAP!

CLIMBING TO THE CEILING WON'T SAVE YOU! THE GOBLIN HAS WAYS OF BRINGING YOU DOWN!

BUT IT'S SO NICE AND COZY UP HERE

FSSST!

HOWEVER, IF YOU'RE LONESOME DOWN THERE, I'LL COME DOWN AND KEEP YOU COMPANY!

THOUGH, JUST BETWEEN US, YOU'RE A REAL PARTY POOP!

THAT'S IT! JUST A LITTLE CLOSER...!

AND NOW, MY MOST POTENT GOBLIN BLAST WILL MAKE YOU WISH THAT YOU--- WHA...?!!

THAT CHAIR! IT HAD BEEN BOLTED TO THE FLOOR!

SPAK!

NOW YOU TELL ME!

WRRUNTCH!

I HOPE YOUR DECORATOR WON'T MIND MY CHANGING THE ROOM'S DECOR---

...BUT, A FELLA GETS TIRED OF BEING USED AS AN UNPAID TARGET AFTER A WHILE!

BRAM!

HOPE YOU WON'T MIND MOVING! A SHINDIG LIKE THIS CAN MAKE THEM BREAK YOUR LEASE!

YOU IMBECILIC TEENAGER! YOU'RE TOO STUPID TO KNOW WHEN YOU'RE BEATEN!

I SHOULD HAVE FINISHED YOU OFF BEFORE--- WHEN I HAD THE CHANCE!

IF ONLY YOU HADN'T KEPT ME TALKING SO LONG!

KEPT YOU?? NOBODY COULD HAVE STOPPED YOU!

IT WAS LIKE SOMEONE JUST PULLED OUT THE PLUG!

BUT, I'VE LEARNED MY LESSON! I'LL NEVER TAKE CHANCES WITH YOU AGAIN!

OH OH! HE'S DIGGING INTO HIS BAG OF TRICKS! CAN'T STOP HIM IN TIME!

BATTERY-POWERED BATS--- SWIRLING AROUND MY HEAD--- FLUTTERING ACROSS MY EYES! CAN'T SEE! HAVE TO BRUSH THEM AWAY...!

GET HIM, MY LITTLE FLYING PETS!

AH, I SEE YOU HAVE FINALLY HURLED THEM AWAY FROM YOU!

JUST IN TIME FOR YOU TO BEAR THE FULL BRUNT OF MY FULLY-AUTOMATED GOBLIN CANNON!

EVEN YOUR ACCURSED STRENGTH CAN'T SAVE YOU FROM ITS LETHAL BLAST RAY!

'ZAT SO? I'M ALL CHOKED UP!

YOU'VE CHOSEN THE WRONG *ADJECTIVE*, SPIDER-MAN! *WASHED-UP* WOULD BE MORE TO THE POINT!

PHISSST!

PERHAPS MY *STRENGTH* CAN'T SAVE ME NOW, GOBBY...BUT I'VE *ANOTHER* ACE IN THE HOLE ...

DON'T TELL ME YOU'VE NEVER HEARD OF MY SWINGIN' *SPIDER SPEED*?!!

IT'S SO *SUBLIME*, I'M SURPRISED NO ONE'S WRITTEN A *SONNET* ABOUT IT!

WHUHH!

WWOK!

YOU'VE TOO MANY *WEAPONS*... TOO MANY *SURPRISES* AT YOUR DISPOSAL!

I CAN'T AFFORD TO GIVE YOU ANOTHER *BREATHER!* THIS IS THE *WRAP-UP*, GOBLIN...ONE WAY OR THE OTHER!

HE LOST HIS *FOOTING!* HE'S FALLING BACK... KNOCKING THOSE *LIVE WIRES* INTO THE VIALS OF *CHEMICALS!*

SPINNK

CAN'T *GRAB* HIM IN TIME! HE'S GETTING THE *FULL EFFECT* OF THE ELECTRO-CHEMICAL *CHARGE!*

IT'S *OVER!* BUT HE ISN'T *MOVING!*

IS HE TRYING ANOTHER *TRICK?* NO...IT *CAN'T* BE! I *SAW* WHAT HAPPENED! *NOBODY* COULD FAKE SOMETHING LIKE *THAT!*

THERE'S ONLY *ONE* THING I HAVE TO FIND OUT...IS HE STILL *ALIVE?!!*

I FEEL A *PULSE!* HE'S STILL *BREATHING!* THANK HEAVEN I DIDN'T *KILL* HIM!

BUT...IT'S THE ONE RESULT I *FEARED!* I'VE CONCLUSIVELY *DEFEATED* HIM...YET, HOW CAN I PREVENT HIM FROM BETRAYING MY *SECRET* AFTER I'VE TURNED HIM OVER TO THE *POLICE??*

HE'S STARTING TO *SPEAK!* HE'S MUMBLING A NAME...

HARRY... MY SON... HARRY...!

YOU... *YOU'RE* NOT MY BOY! WHERE *IS* HARRY? WHO ARE *YOU?*

HE DOESN'T *RECOGNIZE* ME! HIS *MEMORY'S* GONE! OR...*IS* IT?

IT'S NOT HARD TO *FAKE* AMNESIA! THE *GOBLIN* IS CAPABLE OF *ANYTHING!*

AND YET...

HE COULDN'T FOOL MY *SPIDER SENSE!* IT WOULD *TINGLE* IF I WERE STILL IN ANY DANGER!

BUT I DON'T FEEL A *THING!* HE REALLY *DOESN'T* KNOW ME! HE DOESN'T EVEN REMEMBER OUR *FIGHT!* THE SUDDEN, SAVAGE IMPACT OF HIS *SHOCK* HAS ACTUALLY AFFECTED HIS *MIND!*

THIS MEANS... THERE'S STILL *HOPE* FOR ME! AND... PERHAPS EVEN FOR *HIM!*

WHY AM I WEARING THIS STRANGE *COSTUME?* WHERE AM I? I...I MUST SEE MY *SON!* I HAVE TO *HELP* HIM WITH HIS *BIO...!*

IT'S *INCREDIBLE!* HE THINKS HARRY IS STILL IN *HIGH SCHOOL!* HIS MEMORY OF THE LAST FEW YEARS IS COMPLETELY *GONE!*

HE HAS *NO KNOWLEDGE* OF BEING THE *GREEN GOBLIN!*

ANYONE *IN* THERE? *OPEN UP!* THE PLACE IS *SMOKING!* WE'RE GONNA *BREAK DOWN* THE DOOR!

THE *FIRE DEPARTMENT!* I'VE ONLY GOT *SECONDS* TO ACT!

STAND ASIDE! I'LL SHOOT THE LOCK OFF! IT'LL BE *FASTER!*

PERHAPS I'VE NO *RIGHT* TO BE JUDGE AND JURY--- BUT, WHY SHOULD HE BE PUNISHED FOR SOMETHING THAT HAPPENED WHEN HE WASN'T REALLY *HIMSELF...* SOMETHING HE CAN'T EVEN *REMEMBER* NOW?

AND THERE'S *HARRY* TO THINK OF! IT WOULD BREAK HIS HEART!

IF I CAN JUST CHANGE HIS *CLOTHES* FAST ENOUGH...!

CRACK!

...WHEW!...GOOD OL' SPIDER SPEED! LUCKY I WAS ABLE TO FIND ONE OF HIS *SUITS* IN THE CLOSET! I JUST *MADE* IT!

UH-OH! HIS *GOBLIN COSTUME!* WHAT DO I DO WITH *THAT?*

THAT *DOES* IT! NOW PUT YOUR *SHOULDERS* TO IT, BOYS!

THE *FIRE!* IT'S THE ONLY WAY!

THE SMOKE IS SO *THICK,* THE FABRIC WILL BE BURNED TO CINDERS BEFORE ANYONE CAN SEE IT!

AND SO ENDS THE SORDID CAREER OF THE GREEN GOBLIN... *FOREVER!*

STAY BACK! EVERYTHING'S ALL RIGHT! I'M BRINGING HIM OUT! THERE'S NO MORE DANGER!

IT'S *SPIDER-MAN!* HE'S HOLDING ONTO SOMEONE! ...BRINGING HIM *TOWARDS* US!

WHO EVER THOUGHT THAT MASKED WALL-CRAWLER WOULD TURN OUT TO BE A *HERO?!*

HERO MY *FOOT!* HOW DO WE KNOW WHAT HE REALLY WAS *UP* TO? HE MAY HAVE *CAUSED* THE FIRE!

FOR ALL WE KNOW, WE JUST CAUGHT HIM IN THE *ACT!*

HOLD IT, YOU! GET *BACK* HERE! YOU'VE SOME *EXPLAININ'* TO DO!

WHY DON'T YOU USE YOUR *GUN?* YOU CAN *SHOOT* HIM DOWN?

ON WHAT *GROUNDS?* I'M NOT A *STORM TROOPER,* PAL!

HIS NAME'S *NORMAN OSBORN!* GET HIM TO A DOCTOR... FAST!

HE'S A *HERO!* HE HELPED ME FINISH OFF THE *GREEN GOBLIN!*

BUT, WHERE *IS* THE GOBLIN?? WHAT *HAPPENED?* HOW DO *YOU* FIGURE IN ALL THIS? *WAIT...!*

CAN'T STOP TO EXPLAIN NOW...BUT I PROMISE YOU *ONE* THING...THE *GREEN GOBLIN* WILL NEVER TROUBLE YOU AGAIN!

AS FOR *ME,* I CAN'T WASTE ANOTHER SECOND! I'VE GOT TO GET BACK TO *AUNT MAY!*

SECONDS LATER...

THAT'S DR. BROMWELL'S CAR AT THE DOOR!

OH, NO! IT... IT'S WHAT I FEARED!

BUT...I'VE GOT TO BE CAREFUL! CAN'T LET ANYONE SEE ME LIKE THIS!

I'VE GOT TO GET TO MY ROOM THROUGH THE BACK WINDOW--- AND CHANGE UP THERE!

POOR AUNT MAY! IF... IF ANYTHING HAPPENS... I'LL NEVER FORGIVE MYSELF!

IT WILL BE BECAUSE SHE WAS WORRIED ABOUT ME!

WHY MUST I HURT EVERYTHING I TOUCH?? UNCLE BEN! BETTY BRANT! AND NOW... AUNT MAY!

BETTY'S FEMALE INTUITION MUST HAVE MADE HER LEAVE ME!

SHE MUST HAVE FELT THAT I'D BRING NOTHING BUT HEART-ACHE TO THOSE I LOVE!

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN! ABLE TO CLIMB WALLS...TO FIGHT, TO RUN, TO THINK BETTER AND FASTER THAN ANY DOZEN ORDINARY MEN!

EVEN THOSE WHO HATE ME ENVY MY POWERS!

MY POWERS! WHAT A JOKE!

I SOMETIMES THINK THEY'VE PROVEN TO BE NOTHING BUT A CURSE!

I-I'D TRADE PLACES WITH ALMOST ANY NORMAL EVERYDAY MAN!

AT LEAST AUNT MAY WOULDN'T HAVE TO SUFFER FOR MY SECRET!

DR. BROMWELL! MY AUNT! IS SHE...??

QUIET, SON! SHE FINALLY FELL ASLEEP! I'VE PLACED HER UNDER MILD SEDATION!

IT WASN'T EASY TO GET HER TO SHUT HER EYES! SHE WAS VERY CONCERNED ABOUT YOU, PETER!

I-I WAS AFRAID OF THAT, DOCTOR!

YOU WERE?

THEN WHY DID YOU STAY OUT SO LATE WITHOUT CALLING? I WARNED YOU THAT SHE MUST BE SPARED FROM ANY SERIOUS WORRY, OR SHOCK!

I NEVER THOUGHT THAT YOU'D BE SO UNFEELING ... SO WRAPPED UP ONLY IN YOURSELF!

LUCKILY, I REACHED HER IN TIME TO PREVENT ANY SERIOUS ILL EFFECTS!

BUT, IF IT HAPPENS AGAIN---IT MAY BE TOO LATE!

IT...WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN, DOCTOR!

I HOPE NOT, MY BOY! FOR THE SAKE OF BOTH OF YOU!

AFTER THE DOOR CLOSES QUIETLY BEHIND HIM, A BROODING PETER PARKER MAINTAINS SILENT VIGIL THROUGH THE LONG, LONELY, SEEMINGLY ENDLESS HOURS, UNTIL...

PETER! IS...IS THAT YOU?

AUNT MAY! YOU'RE AWAKE! YOU'RE ALL RIGHT!

OF COURSE I AM, DEAR... NOW THAT YOU'RE HERE!

BUT, IT WAS SO LATE! AND YOU HADN'T CALLED! I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO THINK! THE CITY STREETS CAN BE SO CRUEL ... SO DANGEROUS!

SHE'S OKAY! THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS! SHE'S OKAY!

WHERE WERE YOU, PETER?

IT BUGS ME TO LIE... BUT HOW CAN I TELL HER I WAS FIGHTING FOR MY LIFE AGAINST A DEADLY MADMAN IN A BURNING BUILDING?

IT'S ALL MY FAULT, AUNT MAY! I WAS STUDYING WITH ONE OF MY CLASSMATES, AND WE JUST FORGOT HOW LATE IT WAS GETTING!

YOU POOR DEAR! I KNOW HOW MUCH YOUR SCHOLARSHIP MEANS TO YOU... AND HOW YOU WANT TO REMAIN AT THE HEAD OF THE DEAN'S LIST!

BUT YOU SIMPLY MUSTN'T SPEND SO MUCH TIME STUDYING! YOU NEED SOME FRESH AIR...SOME EXERCISE!

IN FACT, LOOK HOW FLUSHED YOUR FACE IS NOW!

I DO DECLARE! YOU HAVE A FEVER!

AUNT MAY...THIS IS RIDICULOUS! I FEEL FINE! IT'S I WHO SHOULD BE LOOKING AFTER YOU!

NONSENSE, PETER! YOU KNOW HOW FRAGILE YOU ARE! THIS WARM BROTH AND A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP WILL DO YOU A WORLD OF GOOD!

MY HEAD WAS WARM BECAUSE I WAS SO NEAR THE FLAMES FOR SO LONG! BUT... MY BEST BET IS TO LET HER MINISTER TO ME! IT'S GOOD THERAPY FOR HER!

JUST KNOWING THAT YOU'RE HOME SAFE AGAIN HAS MADE ME FEEL LIKE A NEW WOMAN!

AND, IN AN EXPENSIVE HOSPITAL ROOM, ON THE FASHIONABLE EAST SIDE OF MANHATTAN...A FATHER AND SON SEEM TO FIND EACH OTHER AGAIN... AS THOUGH AFTER AN ABSENCE OF MANY LONG, NOW-FORGOTTEN YEARS...

DON'T WORRY, DAD! EVERYTHING WILL BE ALL RIGHT... WE'RE TOGETHER AGAIN!

I CAN'T REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED, SON...THESE PAST FEW YEARS SEEM TO BE FOREVER BURIED... FOREVER LOST TO ME!

BUT, THE FUTURE LIES AHEAD...AND IT WILL BE A GOOD ONE... FOR BOTH OF US! SOMEHOW I KNOW THAT NOW!

NEXT ISSUE:

DON'T MISS PETER PARKER'S STARTLING DECISION

PLUS...

AN ALL-NEW, FANTASTICALLY POWERFUL SUPER-FOE FOR SPIDEY!

'NUFF SAID!

AVENGERS TOWER.
PRESENT DAY.

THERE'S SOMETHING PARKER *WASN'T* TELLING ME...

...MEANING IT'S THE SORT OF THING THAT COULD BE A *GAME-CHANGER.*

HE CAN'T BE THE *ONLY* ONE WHO KNOWS IT...

WELL, HE AND *MR. OSBORN...*

...THE TRICK IS FINDING OUT WHAT IT IS BEFORE ANYONE *ELSE.*

I'VE INTERVIEWED AS MANY MAJOR AND MINOR PLAYERS IN MR. OSBORN'S LIFE AS POSSIBLE...

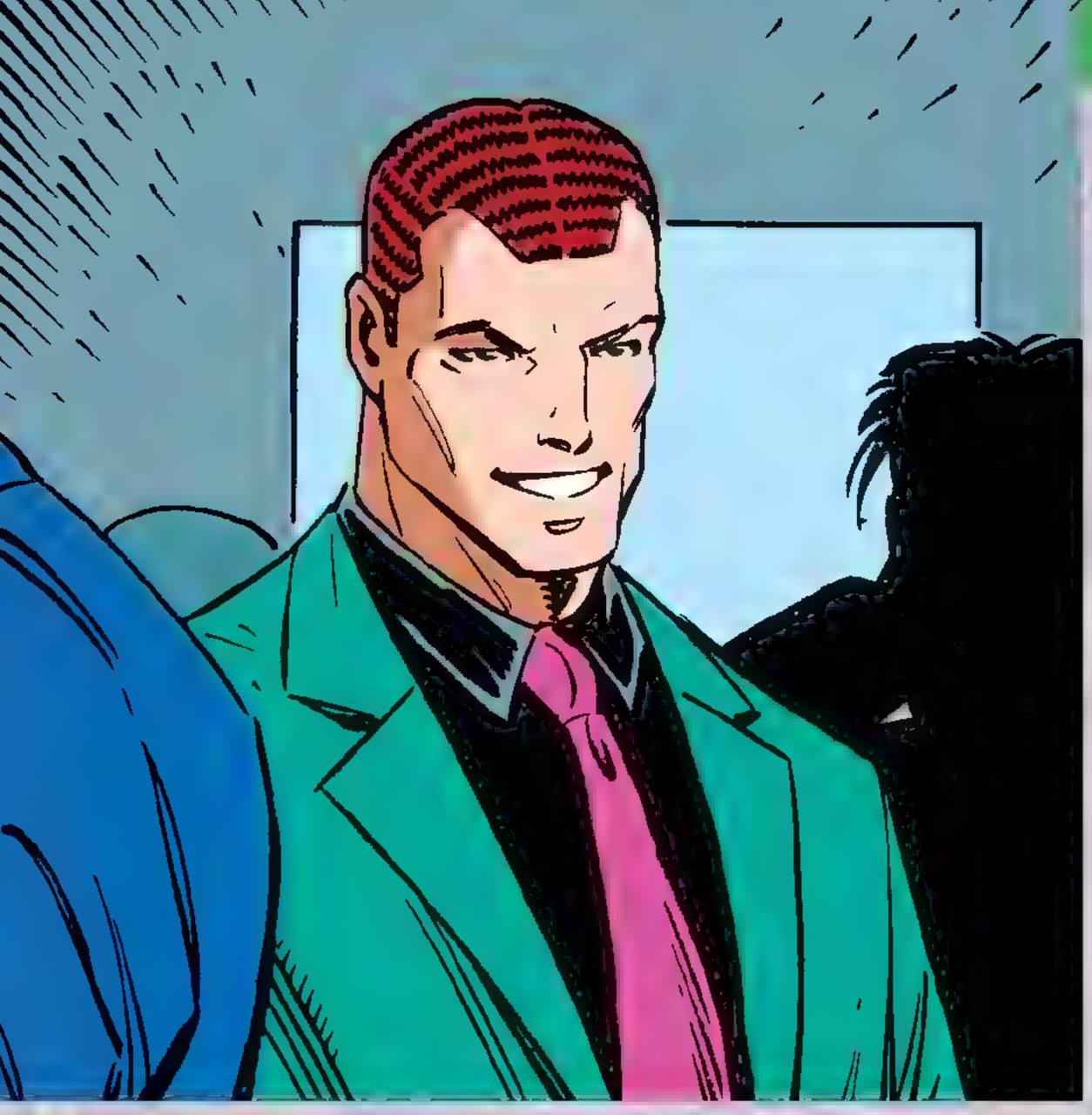
...COLLECTED DATA FROM EVERY RELIABLE SOURCE I COULD TRACK DOWN...

...EVEN ADDED IN SOME OF THE MORE POPULAR INTERNET *RUMORS* AND *INNUENDO*-- ANYTHING THAT MIGHT HELP.

IF THERE'S ANYTHING SCANDALOUS OR DAMNING I DON'T KNOW ALREADY, IT'S GOT TO BE IN HERE *SOMEWHERE.* SOME *HINT* OF IT...

I JUST NEED TO KNOW HOW TO *LOOK,* HOW TO CONNECT THE *DOTS...*

...HOW TO READ *BETWEEN* THE LINES...

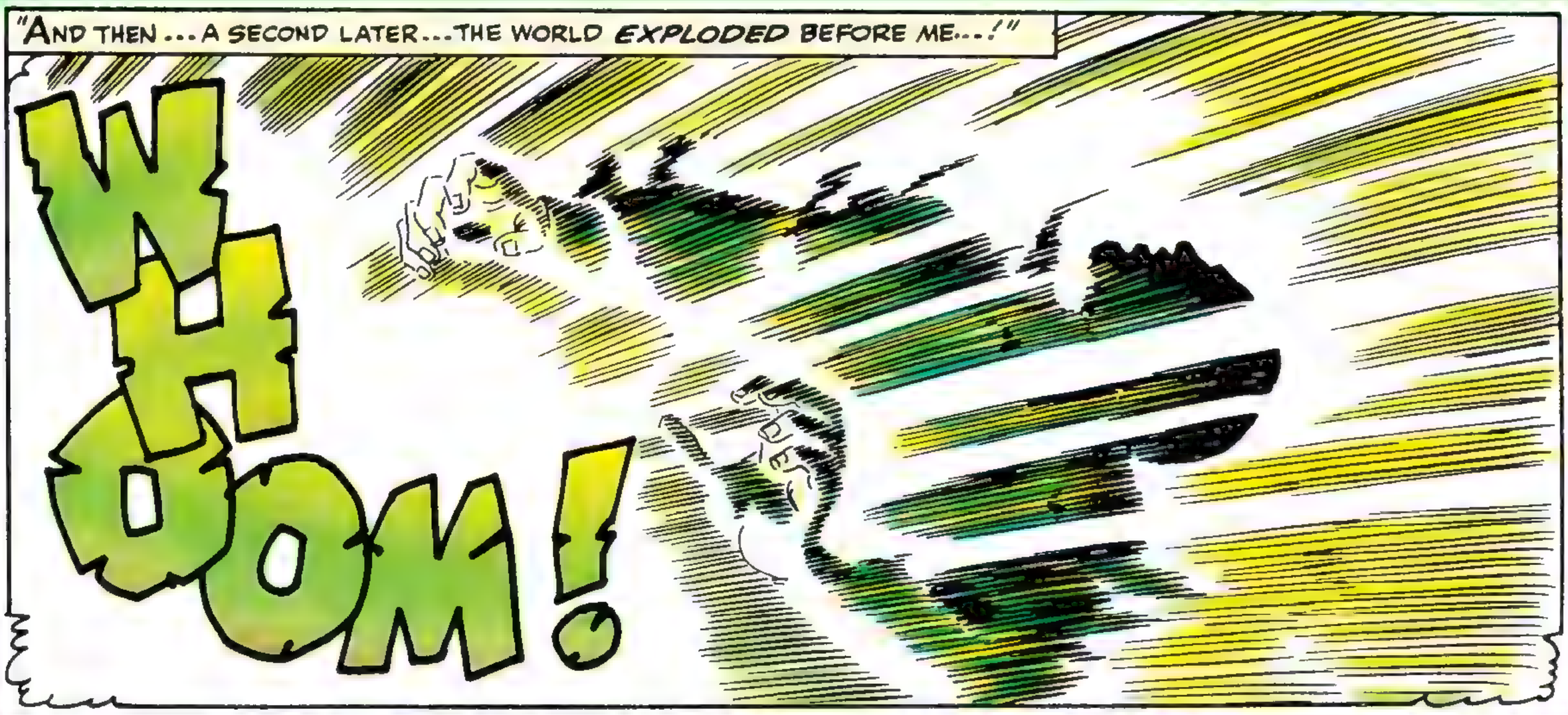


Norman Osborn's rise to power was one engulfed in determination, ruthlessness and eventually, insanity. Vowing to restore the family fortune his alcoholic father had lost, Norman created Osborn Industries, which specialized in chemical manufacturing. With his wife, Emily, having died shortly after giving birth to their son, Harry, Norman focused more on strengthening his growing empire than raising his child, who he saw as a disappointment.

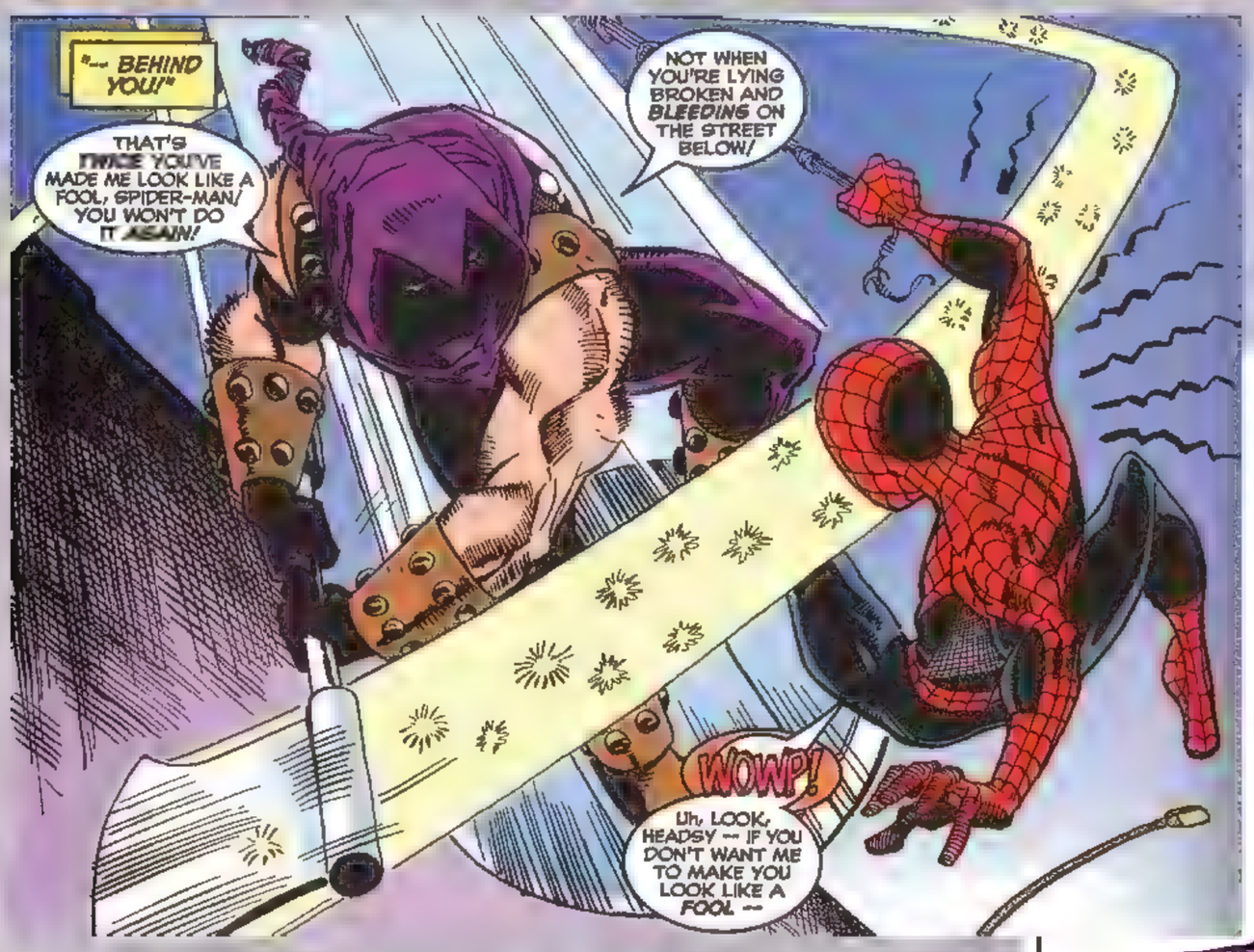
Osborn suffered many early setbacks to his company's progress, including corporate sabotage by rival Obadiah Stane and internal embezzling by his own partner, Mendel Stromm. Through all this, Norman joined a clandestine group of industrialists who would secretly create super villains to occupy the growing number of costumed heroes and distract them from the group's illicit affairs.

"PERHAPS I WAS TOO HARD ON STROMM ... BUT IT WAS HIS OWN FAULT FOR BEING CARELESS ... AND IT GAVE ME COMPLETE CONTROL OF MY BUSINESS!"
YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS, OSBORN! I WON'T BE IN JAIL FOREVER ... AND WHEN I GET OUT ... I'LL HAVE MY REVENGE! I SWEAR IT!
YOU ALWAYS WERE TOO EMOTIONAL, STROMM! THAT LITTLE OUTBURST OF YOURS DOESN'T IMPRESS ME A BIT!
TAKE HIM AWAY, GENTLEMEN! I'LL BE IN COURT TO PREFER CHARGES IN THE MORNING!

An early attempt to use a new strength-enhancing serum on employee Nels Van Adder created what would afterward be dubbed the Proto-Goblin. Transformed into an insane killer, Nels tried to murder Norman, but eventually fled. Though it was deemed a failure, Norman became convinced more research into the project would yield success.



Using notes left behind by the jailed Stromm, Norman again tried to create a strength-enhancing serum. Still unrefined, the green concoction exploded, bathing Norman and soaking into his skin. While hospitalized, Norman found the serum was successful in some regards: Not only was he now superhumanly strong, but it also rendered him smarter. His already-tenuous grasp of ethics and sanity began to slip away.


"— BEHIND YOU!"
THAT'S TWICE YOU'VE MADE ME LOOK LIKE A FOOL, SPIDER-MAN! YOU WON'T DO IT AGAIN!
NOT WHEN YOU'RE LYING BROKEN AND BLEEDING ON THE STREET BELOW!
WOOP!
Uh, LOOK, HEADSY — IF YOU DON'T WANT ME TO MAKE YOU LOOK LIKE A FOOL —

Delving more explicitly into illegal activities, the now-insane Norman dreamed of creating a criminal empire and targeted the new hero Spider-Man as his first conquest. Secretly hiring and equipping the criminal Headsman to kill the hero, Norman was disgusted by the would-be assassin's failures.

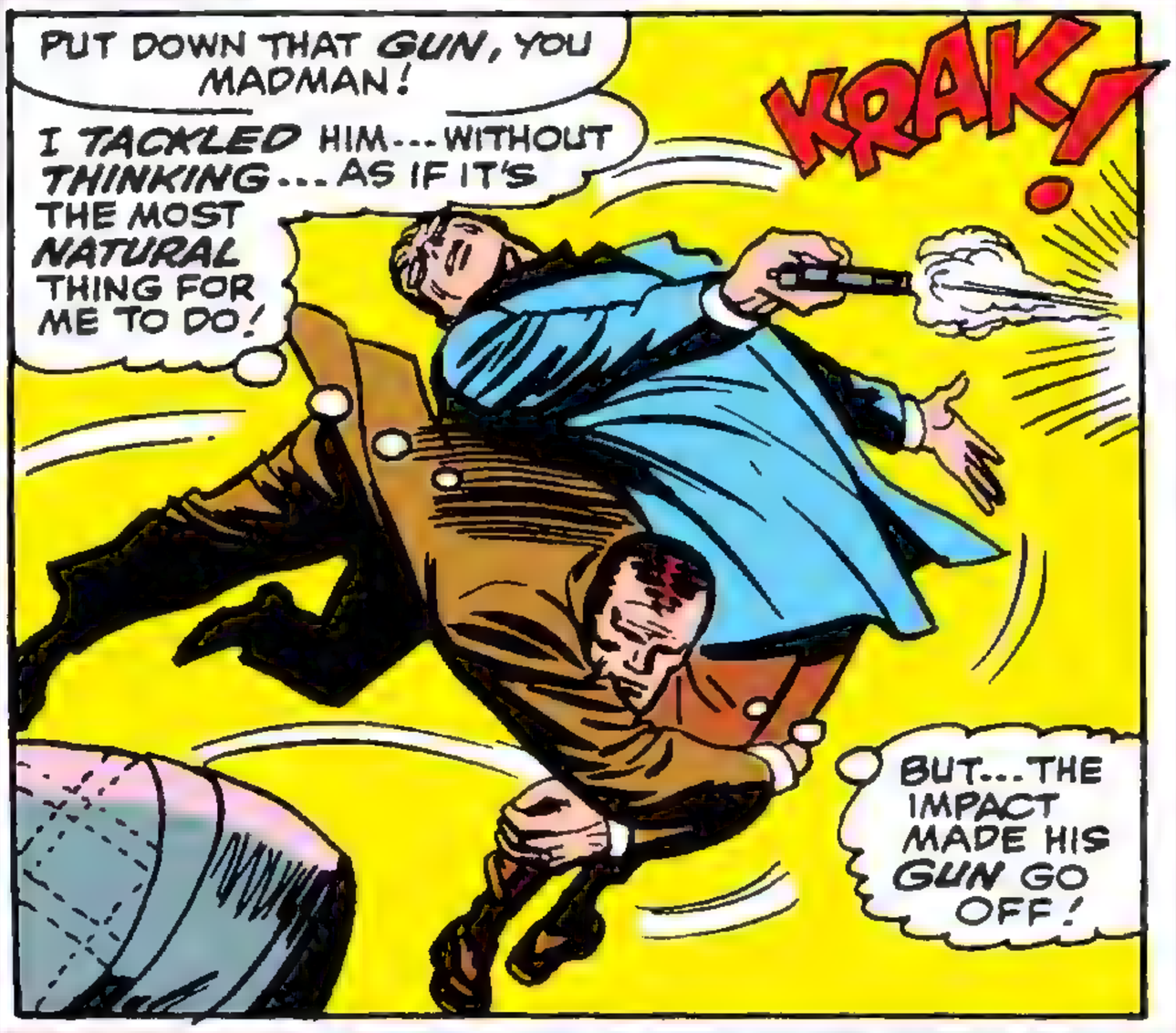
Taking matters into his own hands, Norman opted to became a super villain himself. Briefly considering calling himself Mr. Coffee, Norman instead took inspiration from the hue of his serum and became the maniacal Green Goblin.

On his own or as part of various coalitions with the likes of the Enforcers and the Crime-Master, the Goblin struck at Spider-Man again and again, all the while unaware the wall-crawler was actually teenager Peter Parker, a friend of Harry's.

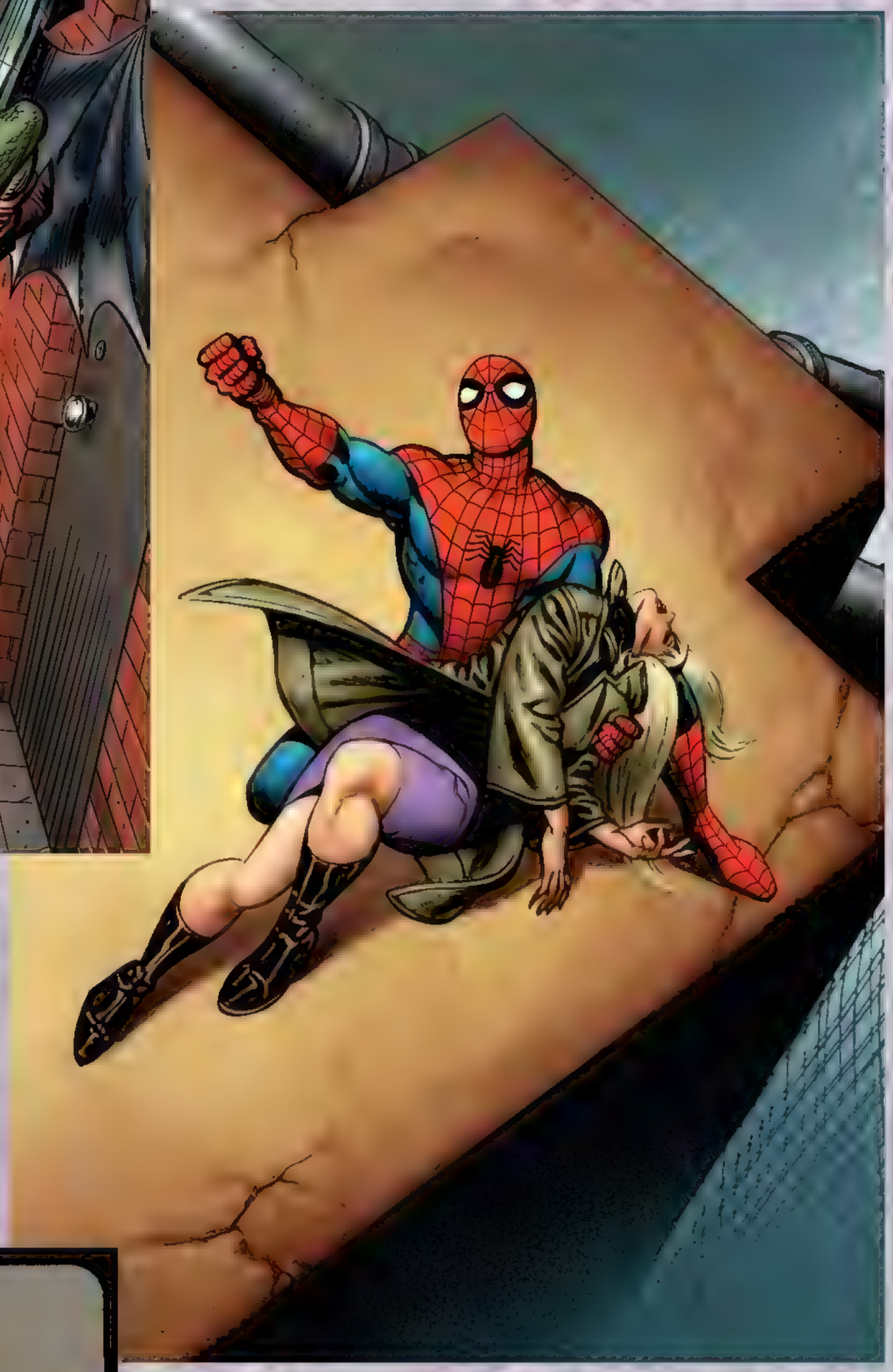
Norman eventually learned Peter's secret, sealing their fate as eternal enemies. With a new Goblin-Glider replacing his original "broomstick" glider, the Goblin captured Peter and revealed his own identity. Norman was defeated after being thrown into electrical wires and doused in chemicals, rendering him amnesiac.

TAKE A LOOK, PARKER-- A GOOD, LONG LOOK-- IT'S THE LAST FACE SPIDER-MAN WILL EVER SEE--
IT'S THE REAL FACE OF THE GREEN GOBLIN-- THE FACE OF NORMAN OSBORN!
THOSE FEATURES!! THAT NAME! OF COURSE--YOU'RE RELATED TO MY OWN CLASSMATE!! YOU'RE HARRY OSBORN'S FATHER!

This only exacerbated Osborn's mental instability, as his personality would switch between the now-kinder Norman and the cruel, ruthless Goblin. Norman even helped Spider-Man save Parker's girlfriend Gwen Stacy from a kidnapping plot by Wilson Fisk, the Kingpin of Crime.


PUT DOWN THAT GUN, YOU MADMAN!
I TACKLED HIM--- WITHOUT THINKING--- AS IF IT'S THE MOST NATURAL THING FOR ME TO DO!
KRAK!
BUT...THE IMPACT MADE HIS GUN GO OFF!

The Goblin re-emerged in short order, twice fighting Spider-Man before the evil persona was again submerged.



It came forth again in light of Harry's drug addiction and financial troubles within Osborn Industries.

Fully in control, the Green Goblin kidnapped Gwen and, when Spider-Man tried to save her, threw her to her death from atop the Brooklyn Bridge. Trying to kill Spider-Man, the Goblin instead accidentally impaled himself with his own Goblin Glider. Believed dead, Norman fled to Europe, where he remained for years.

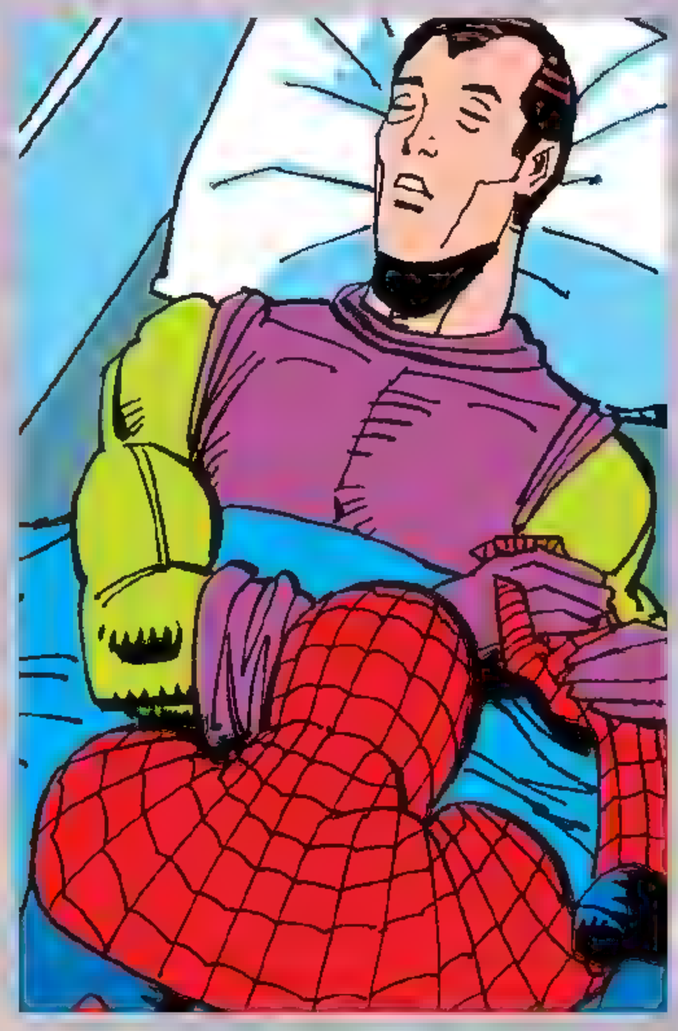
In his absence, a slew of successors emerged, each eager to take over where the original Green Goblin left off. Like his father, Harry Osborn's mental stability slipped, leading him to don Norman's costume several times. Harry's psychiatrist, Dr. Bart Hamilton, tried as well to usurp the identity — leading to his demise. A truly worthy successor, Roderick Kingsley discovered Norman's equipment and a variant of the Goblin Serum, becoming the Hobgoblin. For years, he tormented Spider-Man. After Kingsley led mercenary Jason Macendale — a.k.a. Jack O'Lantern — to believe reporter Ned Leeds was the Hobgoblin, Macendale had Leeds murdered and took over the Hobgoblin identity. A deal with the demon N'astirh transformed Macendale into a more demonic being. When Macendale and the creature were split, he and the demon — Demogoblin — both terrorized Spider-Man before they were both killed.

Having gone mad after several attempts at being a hero, Harry re-assumed the Goblin name and once more battled Spider-Man, but seemingly died of the strain. Secretly, Norman had his son taken to Europe, where he recovered. He left behind many fail-safes, including the Goblinettes, three androids designed to destroy his enemy. Another heroic Green Goblin, young Phil Urich, briefly used the identity.

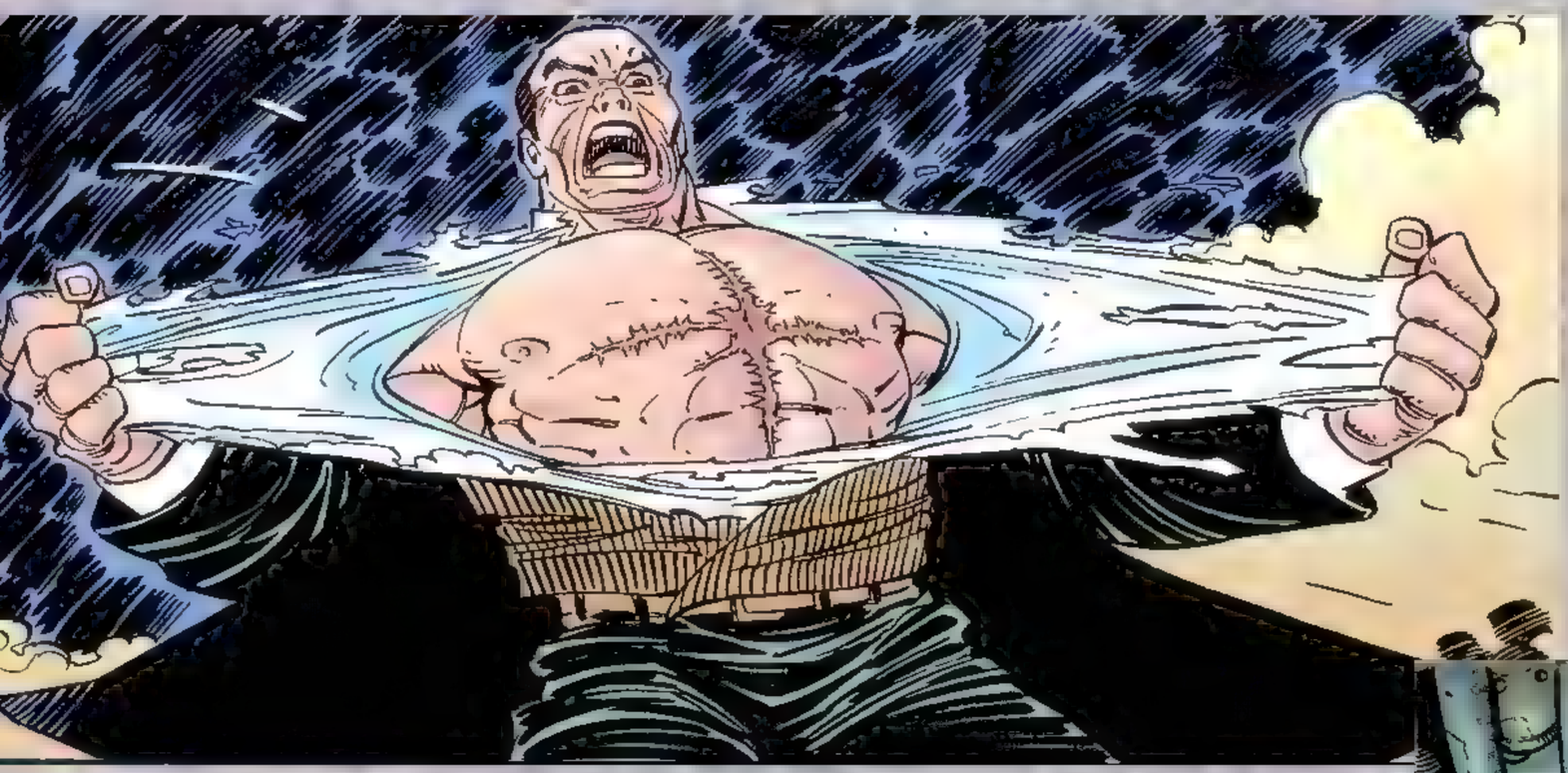
I'VE PREPARED MYSELF FOR ANY EVENTUALITY-- ARMED MYSELF AGAINST ANY POSSIBLE FAILURE!
HIDDEN IN MY CUFF IS THE MOST POTENT BOMB OF THEM ALL!!
BUT WE'VE GOT TO FIGURE OUT WHO HE'S WORKING THROUGH. IT CAN'T JUST BE THOSE GOBLIN WOMEN --
-- SOMEONE MUST HAVE RECRUITED THEM. SOMEONE DIRECTLY CONTROLLED BY HARRY.
BUT... WHO?

I ALSO TOOK ADVANTAGE OF STROMM'S SCIENTIFIC EXPERTISE, HAVING HIM DEVELOP HIGHLY-ADVANCED HOLOGRAPHIC TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORTATION DEVICES THAT WOULD MAKE SCRIER SEEM TO MYSTICALLY APPEAR AND DISAPPEAR AT WILL...
... ALONG WITH WEAPONRY AND SPECIAL EFFECTS DEVICES BUILT INTO THE SCRIER COSTUMES, ALL TO MAINTAIN THE ILLUSION OF SCRIER BEING A SINGLE, SUPERNATURAL ENTITY OF IMMENSE POWER.
THINGS WERE GOING EXTREMELY WELL... UNTIL MY DISCOVERY OF EVENTS TAKING PLACE BACK IN NEW YORK ENRAGED ME SO MUCH...
... THAT I WAS TEMPTED TO RETURN THERE FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE MY "DEATH" FOUR YEARS BEFORE.
17

During his exile, Norman joined the secretive Cabal of Scriers while raising Gabe and Sarah to believe Peter Parker was their father and the murderer of Gwen. After Harry's "death," Norman returned home, intent on resuming his vendetta against Spider-Man.



He struck at Parker behind the scenes during Peter's ordeal involving clone Ben Reilly, who had returned after years of being believed dead. Replacing Peter's Aunt May with a genetically altered actress and manipulating tests to lead Peter to believe he, not Ben, was the clone, Norman methodically attempted to tear Peter's world apart.



After revealing himself and being defeated several more times, Norman tried to force Peter to become his successor. More insane than ever, Norman continued to run his company, now named Oscorp, but was publicly exposed as the Goblin after trying to kill reporter Jessica Jones, whose enraged boyfriend Luke Cage defeated the villain. Incarcerated, Norman forced Spider-Man to free him, soon leading the Sinister Twelve's failed attempt to kill the web-slinger.

With the passage of the Superhuman Registration Act, Norman saw new opportunities. Joining the program, he was at first forced through nanite technology to act as a would-be assassin of an Atlantean diplomat. Though foiled, Norman was not finished.

Managing to get many of his crimes pardoned and even convincing a large amount of the population he had been framed as the Green Goblin, Norman was handed leadership of the Thunderbolts, a team of super villains forced to work for the government.

Though his memory of Spider-Man's secret identity was once again wiped clean, Norman's dual personalities continued to battle within him while leading the team; when a team of telepaths assaulted Thunderbolts Mountain, Norman again donned the Goblin costume.

Though the Thunderbolts suffered several failures and internal conflicts, Norman personally led them into battle against a massive army of invading Skrulls. Along with many other superhumans, Norman and his crew prevailed — with Norman himself firing the killing shot that felled the Skrulls' Queen Veranke.

Now a hero to the public, Norman reveled in his new role. Though the invasion had crippled and dismantled S.H.I.E.L.D., Norman convinced his superiors to allow him to revive it under the new name H.A.M.M.E.R.; with himself in charge. As Iron Patriot, Osborn formed a new team of Avengers, using several of his previous Thunderbolts disguised as heroes. Osborn also created a new Thunderbolts team and formed a Cabal with Doctor Doom, Namor, Loki, the Hood and Emma Frost.

Possibly the most powerful man on Earth, Norman's new role as public savior has done little to sate his quest for even more power. At once benevolent and maniacally insane, Norman's dark reign over America's — and possibly the world's — superhumans has just begun.

GO *HOME,* VICTORIA.

PEOPLE WILL SAY I'M WORKING YOU TO *DEATH.*

MR. OSBORN! I...I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE...

DIDN'T MEAN TO *DISTURB* YOU.

ARE YOU DOING SOMETHING THAT *WOULD* DISTURB ME?

OF COURSE NOT, SIR.

OPENING MY *CLOSETS?* COUNTING MY *SKELETONS?*

JUST TRYING TO FIND IF THERE'S ANYTHING ELSE THAT COULD...*DERAIL* YOUR AGENDA, SIR.

I'M SURE YOU WERE.

SO WE COULD NIP IT IN THE *BUD.* MAKE A *PRE-EMPTIVE* STRIKE.

THE *GREEN GOBLIN* FIASCO--

WAS *HANDLED.* BY *ME.*

QUITE *EFFECTIVELY.*

THE SAME WAY I'LL HANDLE *ANYTHING* THAT GETS IN MY WAY.

OR ANYONE *NAIVE* ENOUGH TO THINK THEY MIGHT FIND A *CHINK* IN MY ARMOR, SOME WAY TO TEAR ME *DOWN.*

IF YOU WANT TO KNOW WHERE THE BODIES ARE *BURIED,* VICTORIA, JUST ASK *ME.*

BECAUSE I BURY THEM SO DEEP NO ONE *EVER* FINDS THEM.

OKAY! NOW THAT WE'RE ON THE *SAME PAGE,* I'M SURE YOU'LL DELETE ALL THE ELECTRONIC FILES, BACK-UPS, AND COPIES ON THIS MATTER.

YOUR NOTES, PRINT-OUTS AND CLIPPINGS? IN THE *TRASH CAN.*

THANK YOU.

NOW, LET'S PUT THIS BEHIND US AND FORGET...

SOMETHING *WRONG,* SIR?

A MEMORY... THAT I CAN'T QUITE...

A DREAM--?

DOESN'T MATTER.

IF IT'S *IMPORTANT,* IT'LL COME TO ME.

SOONER OR LATER.

END.

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

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39 AUG

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ANOTHER MARVEL FIRST

SPIDEY And The GREEN GOBLIN... BOTH UNMASKED!

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

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"SPIDEY SAVES THE DAY!"

THE END OF THE GREEN GOBLIN!

MARVEL SPOTLIGHT

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MARVEL SPOTLIGHT™ ON

FANDRAL, HOGUN, VOLSTAGG

WARRIORS THREE

IT'S ONE FOR ALL... AND ALL FOR FUN!!

THOR'S THREE BUDDIES IN NON-STOP ACTION!

Stan Lee presents: WARRIORS THREE! ™ JV213

LEN WEIN — WRITER/EDITOR
JOHN BUSCEMA & JOE SINNOTT — ILLUSTRATORS
GLYNIS WEIN — COLORIST
JOE ROSEN — LETTERER
IRV FORBUSH — HONORARY GODLING

A NIGHT ON THE TOWN!

THE PLACE IS A SLEAZY WATERFRONT BAR, REEKING OF CHEAP CIGARETTE SMOKE AND EVEN CHEAPER BOOZE, AND THE SCENE IS NOT AT ALL UNCOMMON FOR AN ESTABLISHMENT SUCH AS THIS--

--EXCEPT, OF COURSE, FOR THE THREE GAUDILY-GARBED GENTLEMEN CURRENTLY HOLDING THE UPPER HAND IN THIS NO-HOLDS-BARRED BATTLE!

FOR THE RECORD, THEIR NAMES ARE FANDRAL the Dashing, HOGUN the Grim, AND VOL-STAGG the Voluminous. THEY ARE THE THREE CLOSEST COMPANIONS OF THE MIGHTY THOR...

...AND YOU MAY BE WONDERING HOW THEY GOT INTO A SITUATION LIKE THIS!!

FOR THE **ANSWER**, WE MUST TURN THE CLOCK **BACK** SEVERAL HOURS, TO A QUIET MID-MANHATTAN **STREET** EARLIER THIS SAME EVENING...

SO THE MIGHTY THOR HATH LEFT US TO FEND FOR **OURSELVES**, WHILST HE DOTH FLY TO CONFRONT THE ALIEN **FIRELORD!***

SO **WHAT**, I SAY THEE... **SO WHAT?**

*AS SEEN IN **THOR*** 246-247. -- LEN.

ARE WE MERE **CHILDREN**, THAT WE CANNOT FIND OUR WAY WITHOUT THE THUNDER GOD TO **LEAD** US?

A BRAVE NEW **WORLD** SURROUNDS US, ABOUNDING IN **WONDERMENT.** I, FOR ONE, WOULD SAMPLE ITS **PLEASURES!**

BEN

U.S. MAIL

AND HOW DOST THOU SUGGEST WE **BEGIN**, FRIEND FANDRAL?

BY ACQUIRING A VEHICLE CALLED A **TAXI CAB**, VAST ONE.

I HAVE HEARD IT RUMORED THAT THOSE WHO **DRIVE** THESE MODERN CHARIOTS DOTH KNOW WHERE **ALL** IS TO BE FOUND!

BUT AFTER **SIX** OF THE SHINING YELLOW "CHARIOTS" HAVE PASSED OUR HEROES **BY...**

'TIS MOST PASSING **STRANGE!** THEY DO SEEM NOT TO **NOTICE** MY SUMMONS.

IN TRUTH, DASHING ONE, THEY DO SEEM TO **GAIN SPEED** AT THY VERY **APPROACH!**

GREMLIN

METHINKS THY BRILLIANT **PLAN** DOTH HAVE ITS **FLAWS**, FANDRAL.

WAIT, MY FRIENDS. **THAT** ONE DRAWS SLOWLY TO A **STOP!**

FIE ON THY DOUBTING WAYS, GRIM HOGUN!

THY CHARIOT **AWAITS** THEE!

I PRAY THEE **ENTER**, BROTHERS-- AND LET THE ESCAPADE **BEGIN!**

NOW

GOOD **EVEN** TO THEE, DRIVER. WHERE ART THOU **BOUND?**

ANYWHERE YOU **SAY**, MACK. YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S **PAYIN'!**

OF ALL THE CABS IN NEW YORK, WHY **MINE?**

YOU GUYS GOIN' TO A *COSTUME PARTY*--

--OR IS THIS SOME KIND'A *INITIATION STUNT?*

COSTUME PARTY? *INITIATION* STUNT? THY WORDS ARE MOST *CURIOUS* INDEED, GOOD DRIVER.

WE ARE BUT THREE LONELY *GODS*, SEEKING *ENTERTAINMENT, EXCITEMENT* AND MAYHAP THE GENTLE *SMILE* OF A FAIR *MAIDEN* OR TWO.

A *MILD* EVENING'S DIVERSION FOR THE LION OF ASGARD, BUT 'TWILL *DO*...

'TWILL *DO.*

OH. YOU FELLAS WANNA GO WHERE THE *ACTION* IS!

WHY DIN'CHA SAY SO IN THE *FIRST* PLACE?

OKAY, YOU GENTS JUST SIT BACK AN' *RELAX*--

--AN' LEAVE THE DRIVIN' TA *MYRON J. MAXWELL!*

THERE AIN'T A *HOT SPOT* IN TOWN I DON'T KNOW LIKE THE *WART* ON THE BACK'A MY HAND!

ON DUTY

DID I NOT *TELL* YE, BROTHERS? WE HAVE INDEED FOUND A GUIDE *WORTHY* TO LEAD US TO OUR DESIRES.

I DESIRE ONLY A BIT MORE *ROOM*, FANDRAL. OUR VOLUMINOUS FRIEND FAIRLY *FILLS* THE SEAT ENTIRE!

PFAH! A MAN'S *GIRTH* IS THE *TRUE* MEASURE OF HIS *NOBILITY!*

THEN, VERILY, THOU ART *MORE* NOBLE THAN ALL THE GODS OF GOLDEN ASGARD *COMBINED.*

I DON'T *GET* IT. THESE GUYS *TALK* LIKE SOMETHIN' OUTTA *SHAKESPEARE*...

...THEY *DRESS* LIKE REJECTS FROM SOME *ROBIN HOOD* FLICK...

...AND THEY CALL THEMSELVES EVER-LOVIN' *GODS*, FER PETE'S SAKE.

WHEN DID THEY START GIVIN' THE *INMATES* THE KEYS TA THE *ASYLUM?*

BUT MYRON J. MAXWELL'S BEWILDERED MUSINGS ARE ABRUPTLY CUT SHORT BY...

A *CROWD*-- MILLING ABOUT IN THE *STREET?*

I SAY THEE, DRIVER-- WHAT BE THE *MEANING* OF THIS?

YA GOT *ME*, MACK. *TRAFFIC* IS TIED UP *TOO*-- AN' I CAN SEE *COPS* AN' *FIRE ENGINES* AN' *EVERYTHIN'* UP AHEAD!

MAYBE THEY'RE FILMIN' A *MOVIE* OR SOMETHIN'!

MAYHAP THOU SPEAKEST *A'RIGHT*, DRIVER. THEY ARE SHINING GREAT *LIGHTS* UPON YONDER *WALL*-- AND YON MORTALS ARE POINTING *UP* AT...

BY THE BRISTLING BEARD OF ODIN!

'TIS A FAIR *DAMSEL IN DISTRESS!*

QUICKLY, MY BROTHERS-IN-ARMS! THERE IS GREAT *NEED* OF US HERE!

NATURALLY, THOU SHALT AWAIT OUR *RETURN*, DRIVER-- OR HOGUN THE GRIM WILL KNOW THE REASON *WHY!*

YEAH. S-SURE. WHATEVER YA *SAY*, CHUM... BUT I G-GOTTA KEEP THE *METER* RUNNIN'

PLEASE, MISS-- GIVE ME YOUR *HAND!* NOBODY HERE WANTS TO *HURT* YOU.

WHY DOTH SO *FAIR* A MAIDEN STAND UPON SO *PERILOUS* A PERCH?

THE ANSWER DOTH BE PAINFULLY *OBVIOUS* TO VALOROUS VOLSTAGG!

LOOK UPON HER *FACE*, FRIEND FANDRAL.

CANST THOU NOT SEE THE *HURT*... THE UTTER *DESPAIR* THAT IS WRITTEN UPON IT?

"THOU DOST SEE BEFORE THEE A WOMAN WHO HATH *LOST* THE WILL TO *LIVE!*"

K-KEEP *AWAY* FROM ME, EVERYONE! STAY *BACK!*

COME ANY *CLOSER* AND I...

I SWEAR I'LL... I'LL *JUMP!*

HEY! WHERE'D'YA THINK YER *GOIN'*, BUDDY?

THERE'S A GIRL'S *LIFE* AT STAKE HERE!

THEN HAVE NO *FEAR*, OFFICER. HER LIFE IS *SAFE* IN FANDRAL'S HANDS!

I PRAY THOU ART *CORRECT*, FRIEND HOGUN.

IF EVER MY GLIB TONGUE HATH *SERVED* ME, LET IT SERVE ME *NOW!*

CZU-6

COME **BACK** HERE, MISTER! YOU'RE NOT **AUTHORIZED** TO GO **UP** THERE!

SPEAK TO ME NOT OF **AUTHORIZATION**, FOOLISH MORTAL--

--BUT RATHER RAISE THY VOICE IN **PRAYER**, SHOULD I NOW **FAIL** IN THE TASK BEFORE ME!

H-HOW DID YOU GET **UP** HERE? WH-WHO **ARE** YOU?

I AM **FANDRAL**, HE OF THE FLASHING BLADE-- AND I COME TO OFFER THEE MY **HAND!** HOW ART **THOU** CALLED?

I'M **MARY**... MARY **MILLER.**

BUT THERE'S NOTHING **ANYONE** CAN DO TO HELP ME **NOW!**

THOU CANST NOT **KNOW** THAT LEST THOU DOST **ASK**, FAIR LADY.

NO--YOU DON'T **UNDERSTAND**--! I'VE LOST **ARNOLD**--

--AND **WITHOUT** HIM, LIFE ISN'T WORTH **LIVING!**

AND PRITHEE, **HOW** DIDST THOU LOSE THY BELOVED ARNOLD?

ARNOLD IS HEAD **SALESMAN** OVER AT THE **DIAMOND JEWELRY EXCHANGE.** W-WE WERE G-GOING TO BE **MARRIED** THIS WEEK!

BUT ARNOLD OWED **MONEY** TO SOME **LOANSHARKS**-- MONEY HE COULDN'T **REPAY**--

--SO THOSE ANIMALS ARE **FORCING** HIM TO HELP THEM **ROB** THE JEWELRY EXCHANGE TONIGHT!

I JUST **KNOW** ARNOLD WILL BE SHOT AND **KILLED**--OR ARRESTED AND SENT TO **JAIL!**

EITHER WAY, IT'S **OVER** BETWEEN US-- **FOREVER!**

NAY, MILADY-- THOU HAST NOT LOST THINE ARNOLD **YET!**

MY BROTHERS-IN-ARMS AND I WILL **FREE** HIM FROM THE YOKE OF HIS **OPPRESSORS**--

--OR **PERISH** IN THE TRYING!

ON **THAT,** THOU HAST THE MOST SACRED WORD OF **FANDRAL!**

YOU MEAN YOU'D REALLY **HELP** ME--SOMEONE YOU ONLY JUST **MET?**

WITHOUT **HESITATION,** FAIR LADY.

NOW PRAY GIVE ME THINE **HAND,** MARY MILLER--

--AND LET US GO **DOWN** FROM THIS MOST **UNCOMFORTABLE** PLACE.

MILADY--?!?

M-MY FOOT--I SLIPPED--!

FEAR NOT, FAIR LADY-- FANDRAL HATH *HOLD* OF THEE!

BUT WOULDST THERE WERE SOMEONE TO HAVE HOLD OF FOOLISH *FANDRAL!*

NO-- WE'RE *FALLING!* WE'RE GOING TO *DIE!*

ARNOLD... *FORGIVE* ME!

DESPAIREST THOU *NOT,* MILADY! IF I CAN BUT *GRASP* YON STURDY *FLAGPOLE--*

--WE MAY YET BE *SAVED!*

SNAP!

AND THEN AGAIN...

HEADS *UP,* MY BROTHERS! A BURDEN MOST *PRECIOUS* DOTH PLUMMET *THY* WAY!

IT'S NO *USE!* NOTHING CAN *SAVE* ME-- *NOTHING!*

THOU DOST DARE CALL THE EAGLE OF WARRIORS *NOTHING,* WOMAN? FAITH, 'TIS...

?

OOOOFF!!

QWISH!

SOOTH, WOMAN, THOU ART TRULY FORTUNATE VALIANT VOLSTAGG IS THE *GENTLEST* OF THE GENTLE AS WELL AS THE *STRONGEST* OF THE STRONG!

VERILY, VAST ONE, 'TIS *MORE* FORTUNATE THY BELLY IS THE *SOFTEST* OF THE SOFT!

WOULD THAT MINE *OWN* FALL WAS AS *COMFORT-ABLY* BROKEN!

NOW *SWIFTLY,* MY BROTHERS-- TO OUR *CHARIOT--* AND TO *ARMS!*

WE'VE A MISSION MOST GRIM BEFORE US--AND WE'D BEST BE *ON* WITH IT!

EXCUSE ME, MISTER. I'M **FRED CRAMER**, FOR **ON-THE-SPOT NEWS!** WONDER IF YOU COULD **SAY** A FEW WORDS ABOUT...

BEGONE, MORTAL! WE'VE NOT THE TIME TO **BANTER** WITH THEE NOW!

HEY--**C'MON**, FELLA! PEOPLE **WATCHED** YOUR HEROIC **RESCUE** UP THERE, AND THEY'VE GOT A **RIGHT** TO...

WHAT OCCURRED 'PON YONDER LEDGE IS NONE OF THY **CONCERN**, LITTLE MAN.

THOSE WHO BLINDLY THRUST THEIR **NOSES** INTO THE AFFAIRS OF OTHERS ARE APT TO **LOSE** THEIR SENSE OF **SMELL**.

R-R-RIGHT. AH... TH-THIS IS **CRED FRAMER**. S-SIGNING OFF.

HEY, I **SAW** WHAT YA DID UP ON THAT **LEDGE**, MACK.

FER A GUY WITH A **LISP**, YER **ALL RIGHT**.

THY COMPLIMENTS ARE **WELCOME**, DRIVER-- BUT WE'VE **GREATER** NEED OF YOUR **SKILL** BEHIND THE WHEEL!

WHERE TO **NOW?**

TO THE **DIAMOND JEWELRY EXCHANGE**-- AND **SWIFTLY!**

THE DIAMOND...? HEY, **THAT** JOINT IS **CLOSED** THIS TIME'A NIGHT!

WHADDAYA GUYS WANNA GO **THERE** FOR?

*AND AFTER THE DISTRAUGHT MARY MILLER HAS TOLD HER WOEFUL **TALE** ONCE MORE...*

WELL, THIS IS THE **PLACE!** HOPE WE'RE IN **TIME**...

DIAMOND JEWELRY EXCHANG

...SEEIN' AS HOW I BROKE EVERY **TRAFFIC LAW** IN THE BOOK **GETTIN'** HERE!

WE SHALL KNOW THE ANSWER TO **THAT** SOON ENOUGH, GOOD DRIVER.

MILADY, STAYEST THOU **HERE** UNTIL OUR **RETURN.**

IF THINE ARNOLD IS **WITHIN** YON DARKENED DWELLING, WE WILL **FIND** HIM.

I--I DON'T KNOW HOW TO **THANK** YOU FOR THIS.

7 5 0

THEN THOU NEEDEST NOT **BOTHER.**

LISSEN, LEMME COME **ALONG** WIT' YOU GUYS.

THOU ART A MOST **VALIANT** MAN INDEED, MYRON J. MAXWELL--

I'VE CRACKED A **SKULL** OR TWO MYSELF IN MY DAY.

--BUT THY PLACE IS **HERE**, IN THE **DEFENSE** OF THE FAIR LADY!

WALK **SOFTLY**, BROTHERS. WE KNOW **NOT** WHAT MAY AWAIT US IN THE **SHADOWS.**

THEN **THOU** HADST BEST GO **FIRST**, FANDRAL. VALIANT VOLSTAGG SHALL PROTECT OUR **REAR.**

VERILY, VAST ONE-- THY *CAUTION* IS AS GREAT AS THY *GIRTH!*

A WISE MAN DOTH TREAD *CAREFULLY* 'PON UNFAMILIAR *GROUND*, GRIM HOGUN, LEST...

HEY YOU!

EH?

WHOA! EASY WITH THEM *TOOTH-PICKERS*, FELLAS.

I WAS JUST WONDERIN' IF MAYBE YOU GUYS COULD SPARE A *QUARTER* SO'S I CAN *COMPLETE* MY COLLEGE EJIKASHUN?

PFAH! STAND *ASIDE*, THOU DRUNKARD! WE'VE NO TIME TO *QUIBBLE* WITH THEE NOW!

LIVES HANG IN THE BALANCE HERE!

LIVES, HUH? ANYTHIN' I CAN DO TA *HELP*, JUMBO?

THOU CANST KEEP THY SODDEN *LIPS* SEALED, RAGGED ONE- AND LET MY COMRADES GET ABOUT THEIR *WORK!*

'TWILL NOT BE EASY TO *ENTER* WITHOUT ALERTING THOSE WITHIN TO OUR *PRESENCE.*

WOULDST THAT THIS DOOR WERE NOT SO *THICK* OR...

OH. YA WANNA GET *IN*, HUH?

SILENCE, DOLT!

LISTEN, JUMBO-- I'M ONLY TRYIN' TA *HELP!* YA WANT *IN*-- I CAN *GET* YA IN!

THEN *DO* SO, OFFENSIVE ONE- OR HOLD THY *PEACE!*

'COURSE, THIS TAKES AN *EXPERT*, Y'UNNERSTAND.

THEY'RE *TRICKY* THINGS, THESE DOORS. YA GOTTA KNOW HOW TA *HANDLE* 'EM, TA *TALK* TO 'EM--

--AN' THE WAY *YOU* GUYS TALK, YA DIDN'T HAVE A *PRAYER!*

BY ODIN! THE INEBRIATED ONE ACTUALLY *SUCCEEDED* IN HIS TASK!

CLIK

IT'S *SIMPLE* IF YA KNOW *HOW*, BUDDY.

'SIDES... THE DOOR WASN'T *LOCKED.*

ON GUARD, MY BRETHREN -- BUT PRAY TRY NOT TO HARM THE ONE CALLED ARNOLD!

IF 'TIS SAFETY THIS ARNOLD DOTH SEEK, FRIEND FANDRAL, THEN LET HIM STAY OUT OF OUR WAY!

WAITEST THOU HERE, RAGGED ONE -- AND KEEP THEE SILENT!

RIGHT... HUSH!

HEY, DID YOU HEAR SOMETHIN' AT THE BACK DOOR, FRANK?

LIKE MAYBE COPS OR SOMETHIN'?

THAT'S THE FIFTH TIME YOU'VE ASKED ME THAT, ERNIE. IT'S NOTHING, I TELL YA -- JUST YOUR NERVES.

NOW CUT IT OUT -- BEFORE YA HAVE US ALL JUMPING OUTTA OUR SKINS!

LET'S JUST BUNDLE UP THE ICE AN' GET OUTTA HERE BEFORE...

HEY!?!

THOK!

'TIS TOO LATE, VARLETS! THE SANDS OF TIME HATH RUN OUT FOR THEE!

AND THE HOUR OF RETRI-BUTION IS AT HAND!

HEY, I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU FREAKS THINK YOU ARE --

-- BUT YOU AIN'T CUTTIN' IN ON OUR ACTION!

THOU HAST SPOKEN THE MAGIC WORD, CHURL!

FOR 'TIS ACTION THAT WE SEEK --

--AND METHINKS AT LAST WE'VE FOUND IT!

PUNK, ALL YOU'VE FOUND IS A REAL FAST WAY TO DIE!

A SLUG FROM ONE OF THESE BABIES WILL TEAR YA OPEN LIKE A...

YYEEOOWW!!

THY *MACE* DOTH STRIKE MOST *SWIFTLY*, GRIM HOGUN--

--BUT, VERILY, THESE CHURLS HATH NOT KNOWN *COMBAT*--

--UNTIL THEY HAVE EXPERIENCED THE AWESOME *ATTACK* OF VALOROUS VOLST--

CHOOM

AAAAGG!

METHINKS 'TIS AN EXPERIENCE THEY'LL NOT SOON *FORGET!*

NOW SWIFTLY, VAST ONE-- SUMMON THE LADY *MARY* TO US, THAT OUR QUEST MIGHT FIND ITS *END.*

FORGIVE US, MARY MILLER-- BUT I FEAR THY TRULY BELOVED BE AMONG THE *FALLEN* HERE.

IF THOU WILT TELL US *WHICH ONE* HE IS, WE WILL HIE HIM *AWAY* ERE THE AUTHORITIES ARRIVE TO *APPREHEND* THE REST!

WH-WHATEVER YOU *SAY*, MISTER FANDRAL.

WELL, MILADY-- WE'VE *UNMASKED* THEM ALL FOR THEE. PRAY POINT OUT THY *BELOVED.*

I--I DON'T KNOW HOW TO *TELL* YOU THIS, FANDRAL--

--BUT ARNOLD ISN'T *HERE!*

WHAT--?!?

ARNOLD? YA MEAN THAT *SKINNY* KID WITH THE *GLASSES?* GEE, *I* COULD'A TOLD YA *THAT!*

HE *TOOK OFF* BEFORE THE GOIN' GOT *ROUGH* AROUND HERE!

THE OTHER GUYS LEFT 'IM OUT FRONT TO KEEP *WATCH*-- BUT SOON'S THEY WENT *INSIDE*, HE HAILED A CAB AN' *TOOK OFF!*

I HEARD 'IM TELL THE *CABBIE* TA TAKE 'IM DOWN TA THE *WATERFRONT!*

THEN 'TIS THERE THAT *WE* MUST VENTURE AS WELL!

EVERYTHIN' *OKAY*, GUYS? YA *FIND* THAT FELLA YOU WAS *LOOKIN'* FOR?

NOT *YET*, GOOD DRIVER-- BUT WITH THINE *AID*, WE STILL HAVE *HOPE*.

TO THE *WATERFRONT*, MYRON J. MAXWELL--AS SWIFTLY AS THY GOLDEN CHARIOT CAN *CARRY* US!

SOMEHOW, I WAS *AFRAID* YOU WAS GONNA SAY THAT.

HEY, WHO'S THE *CHARITY CASE* HERE? A *FRIEND* OF YERS?

THE NAME'S *RAGLAND T. PEPPERMILL*-- AT YER *SERVICE*, CHUM. MY PALS CALL ME *RAGS*.

PLEASED TA *MEET* YA, I GUESS--

-- JUST SO LONG AS YA BREATHE *DOWNWIND* 'A ME.

*OPENING THE WINDOW, MYRON J. MAXWELL PUTS THE **HAMMER** DOWN, AND GROANING UNDER THE **WEIGHT** OF ITS PASSENGERS, THE TAXI TEARS **AWAY** FROM THE RAVAGED **JEWELRY STORE**--*

*-- JUST AS THE **POLICE** COME SCREAMING UPON THE SCENE!*

*DOWN THE PATCHED AND RUTTED STREETS OF MANHATTAN, THE **VEHICLE** RATTLES-- UNTIL RAGLAND T. PEPPERMILL'S OLFACTORY-OFFENDING ODOR BECOMES **LOST** AMIDST SIMILAR SCENTS--*

*--AND THE THREE ASGARDIANS KNOW THEY HAVE REACHED-- THE **WATERFRONT!***

THIS SEEMS AS GOOD A PLACE TO BEGIN OUR *SEARCH* AS ANY.

PRITHEE, *REMAIN* WITH MARY MILLER ONCE MORE GOOD DRIVER. WE SHALL RETURN WHEN WE HAVE *FOUND* HIM THAT WE DO *SEEK*.

230

TRY TA MAKE IT *SNAPPY*, HUH? THIS AIN'T EXACTLY THE KIND'A *NEIGHBORHOOD* I'D LIKE TA BE CAUGHT *DEAD* IN.

IF YA KNOW WHAT I *MEAN*.

TRULY, THIS DOTH SEEM TO BE *THY* DOMAIN, RAGGED ONE.

WHERE DOST THOU SUGGEST WE *BEGIN*?

McGINTY'S IS A PRETTY CLASSY PLACE. THEY EVEN *WASH* THE GLASSES ONCE A WEEK.

JEEZ, WILL YA LOOK AT *THAT*?!?

HEY, I DIDN'T KNOW THE *CIRCUS* WUZ IN TOWN!

SINCE THOU ART THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS THE MISSING ARNOLD BY *SIGHT*, FRIEND RAGS -- PRAY KEEP THY BLOODSHOT *EYES* OPEN.

YA MEAN *BOTH* AT THE *SAME* TIME?

YEAH? SOMETHIN' I CAN *DO* FER YOU WEIRDOS?

AYE, BARKEEP-- A FLAGON OF THY FINEST *MEAD*, IF THOU WOULDST.

MY COMRADES AND I ARE ON A GREAT AND NOBLE *QUEST*--AND WE SEEK *REFRESHMENT*.

WHOOPEE.

WOULD IT NOT HAVE BEEN *SIMPLER* MERELY TO *INQUIRE* AFTER THE ONE WE SEEK, FRIEND FANDRAL?

NAY, ENORMOUS ONE. IN PRIMITIVE ENVIRONS SUCH AS *THIS*, 'TIS BEST TO FIRST GAIN THE *CONFIDENCE* OF THE LOCALS.

I'LL DRINK TA *THAT*.

NOW WHY DOST THOU NOT *MINGLE* WITH THE OTHER PATRONS, VOLSTAGG -- AND SEE WHAT THOU CANST *LEARN*.

...SO I SAYS TO HIM, I SAYS -- IF YA WANNA *KNOW* ANYTHIN', ASK *ME*--

--'CUZ IF *BIG BULL BULOWSKY* DON'T KNOW IT, IT AIN'T WORTH *KNOWIN'*!

THEN PRITHEE, GOOD SIR, BUT MAYHAP THOU CANST ANSWER A *QUESTION*.

YOU TALKIN' TA *ME*, BUTTER-BALL?

INDEED, GOOD SIR, FOR I WONDER IF THOU HAST POSSIBLY *SEEN*...

UH-*UH*, TUBBO-- I AIN'T *SEEN* NOTHIN' AN' I DON'T *KNOW* NOTHIN'!

BUT MOMENTS AGO, THOU DIDST *SAY* THAT...

LISTEN, FATSTUFF, ARE YOU GONNA *BUZZ OFF*--

--OR AM I GONNA HAFTA STUFF YER *BEARD* UP YER *NOSE*?

HEY, YA BETTER *WATCH* THE WAY YA TALK TA MY *BUDDY*, BUSTER-- OR HE'S LIABLE TA REARRANGE YER *TEETH!*

OH *YEAH?*

POW!

BY THE ALL-FATHER'S *BEARD*, RAGGED ONE-- HAST THOU ANY IDEA WHAT THOU HAST *DONE?*

*IN AN ESTABLISHMENT SUCH AS **THIS**, ONE ILL-CONSIDERED **PUNCH** IS ALL IT TAKES TO START **WORLD WAR THREE**--*

*--AND **THAT**, AS YOU MAY ALREADY HAVE NOTICED, IS ABOUT WHERE WE CAME **IN!***

AN' WHAT'RE *YOU* GRINNIN' ABOUT, FANCY-PANTS?

WIPE OFF THAT *SMIRK*--'FORE I SMASH IN YER CRUMMY *FACE!*

CHURL! HAST THOU NO *MANNERS?*

WHUDDO!

NEVER *INTERRUPT* A MAN WHILST HE IS *DRINKING!*

YA SHOULDN'T OUGHT'A OF *DONE* THAT, FELLA!

OL' CHARLIE USED TA BE OUR *CELL-MATE!*

THEN IF THOU ART SO *NEAR* TO THE FALLEN CHARLIE, KNAVES--

--METHINKS MAYHAP THOU SHOULDST *JOIN* HIM IN *REPOSE!*

THAK!

WHAK!

PAK!

VERILY, THE BATTLE HATH BECOME TOO *CLOSE* FOR VALOROUS *VOLSTAGG!*

IN TRUTH, I AM AT MY BEST ON *OPEN GROUND!*

NO *WAY*, CHUBBY! YOU AIN'T GOIN' *NO PLACE--!*

AT LEAST, NOT *STANDIN' UP!*

PFAH! I SAY THEE-- *BEGONE*, FLEAS!

BEGONE-- LEST THE EAGLE OF WARRIORS DOTH *OVERWHELM* THEE WITH HIS BOUNDLESS *WRATH!*

WHOOM!

AND THE VAST ONE'S WRATH IS AS *NOTHING* COMPARED TO THE FURY OF *NOGUN THE GRIM!*

MAN, THIS SURE BEATS SPENDIN' THE NIGHT RUMMAGIN' THRU OL' *GARBAGE CANS!*

I'LL TELL YA, THERE AIN'T *NOTHIN'* LIKE...

UH-OH.

CLUNK!

NAUGHTY, *NAUGHTY*, FELLA. YA SHOULDN'T HIT PEOPLE OVER THE HEAD WIT' *BOTTLES!*

YA COULD *HURT* SOMEBODY LIKE THAT!

AN' IT'S A TERRIBLE *WASTE* OF PERFECTLY GOOD *ROTGUT* BESIDES! NOW, WHERE *WAS* I...?

OH, YEAH. THIS SURE BEATS RUMMAGIN' THRU *GARBAGE CANS!*

SOOTH, WHAT A SORRY *DIS-APPOINT-MENT* THESE VARLETS ARE!

THEY'VE NO REAL *STOMACH* FOR COMBAT WHEN IT COMES *DOWN* TO IT!

METHINKS THY SILVER-TONGUED BANTER IS *WASTED*, DASHING ONE. IT APPEARS ALL OUR ADVERSARIES ARE *FALLEN*--

--AND YET WE HAVE FOUND NO *TRACE* OF THE ONE WE *SEEK!*

THEN WE MUST PICK UP THE GAUNTLET *ANEW*, MY FRIENDS--AND PRESS ON UNTIL OUR QUEST HATH BEEN *COMPLETED!*

ONWARD, BROTHERS! WE SHALL *FIND* THE ONE CALLED ARNOLD, IF WE MUST TEAR DOWN THIS FAIR CITY *STONE-BY-STONE!*

NOW *THAT* I WANNA *SEE!*

PRITHEE, INEBRIATED ONE--HOW MANY OTHER *TAVERNS* ARE THERE IN THIS VICINITY?

BAR

OH...ABOUT *EIGHTEEN*, I THINK... GIVE OR TAKE A *COUPLE.*

NAY! MUST WE *REPEAT* THIS MADNESS EIGHTEEN TIMES *AGAIN* ERE WE FINALLY *LOCATE* FAIR MARY'S *BETROTHED?*

METHINKS *NOT*, ENORMOUS ONE.

FOR, LEST MINE EYES *DECEIVE* ME, IT APPEARS THE LADY HATH *SOLVED* OUR DILEMMA *FOR* US!

OH, *FANDRAL*--I'M SO *GLAD* YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS ARE *BACK!*

BUT *HOW*--?

I WANT YOU TO MEET *ARNOLD SLACKMYSTER*... MY *FIANCE!*

HI. MARY'S TOLD ME ALL *ABOUT* YOU.

OH, *THAT!* WHILE I WAS WAITING IN THE CAB, I *SAW* POOR ARNOLD-- WALKING ALONG THE *PIER!*

I--I WAS TRYING TO DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT TO *DROWN* MYSELF.

Y'SEE, AFTER WHAT *HAPPENED* TONIGHT, I WAS SURE I'D *LOST* MARY FOREVER--AND I DIDN'T WANT TO GO ON LIVING *WITHOUT* HER!

BUT *NOW*, THANKS TO ALL OF *YOU*, WE'RE *TOGETHER* AGAIN-- AND LIFE IS ABSOLUTELY *FANTASTIC!*

AND THY PLANS FOR THE *FUTURE*, MILADY?

I GUESS FIRST WE'LL GO TO THE *POLICE*. MAYBE ARNOLD CAN TURN *STATE'S EVIDENCE* OR SOMETHING.

AND WHEN THAT'S ALL *OVER*, WE'RE GOING TO BE *MARRIED*.

AFTER ALL THOU HAST GONE THRU TO *FIND* ONE ANOTHER AGAIN, THOU WOULDST STILL *POSTPONE* THE JOYOUS EVENT?

VERILY, FANDRAL DOTH SAY THEE... *NAY!*

THE AUTHORITIES CAN *WAIT*, BUT FRIEND CUPID *CANNOT!*

BUT WE...

NOT ANOTHER *WORD*, MILADY. TO THE NEAREST *MAGISTRATE*, MYRON J. MAXWELL--AND *SWIFTLY!*

I WOULD SEE THESE TWO *WEDDED* ERE THIS EVENING *ENDS!*

THEN WHAT'RE YA *WAITIN'* FOR? PILE *IN*, GANG--AN' LET'S GET THIS SHOW ON THE *ROAD!*

AND A SHORT WHILE LATER...

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

MAN, THAT JUDGE SURE DIDN'T SEEM HAPPY 'BOUT PERFORMIN' A MARRIAGE IN THE MIDDLE'A THE NIGHT!

AYE, RAGGED ONE -- BUT HOGUN'S SHARP SWORDPOINT SWIFTLY SHOWED HIM THE ERROR OF HIS WAYS!

THOU HAST OUR THANKS FOR WAITING, GOOD DRIVER.

WIT' SEVENTEEN-AN'A-HALF BUCKS ALREADY ON THE METER, WHAT ELSE WAS I GONNA DO?

SO WHERE TO NOW, MACK?

TO WHEREVER THY PASSENGERS MOST DESIRE, MY FRIEND.

VERILY, I HAVE HEARD THAT THE FALLS OF NIAGARA ARE MOST INVITING AT THIS TIME OF YEAR.

NIAGARA FALLS? HEY, ARE YOU OUTTA YER...?

G-GOLD?

REAL... GOLD?

WELL, I AIN'T BEEN TA NIAGARA FALLS FER YEARS.

HEY, IT'S SURE BEEN FUN KNOWIN' YOU GUYS.

WE ASSURE THEE, FRIEND MYRON--THE PLEASURE WAS TRULY OURS!

NOW GET THEE GONE-- AND MAY ODIN BLESS THEE!

IT DOTH APPEAR WE ARE BACK WHERE WE STARTED THIS MAD EVENING, DASHING ONE.

INDEED, GRIM HOGUN--BUT 'TIS A CONDITION EASILY CURED!

NAY! TELL ME DASHING FANDRAL DOTH NOT MEAN WHAT I THINK!

TAXI? I SAY THEE-- TAXI!!

BY ODIN! HERE WE GO AGAIN!

NEXT ISSUE:

HE'S BACK-- IN SENSES-SHATTERING SOLO ACTION WE GUARANTEE YOU'VE NEVER SEEN BEFORE! BE HERE FOR THE ALL-NEW ADVENTURES OF...

NICK FURY, AGENT OF SHIELD!

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Collecting *Dark Avengers #1, Dark Reign: The Cabal, Thor #600, Dark Reign: The List – Avengers, New Avengers Annual #3, Dark Reign: The Goblin Legacy* and *Marvel Spotlight (1971) #30* – Brian Michael Bendis, J. Michael Straczynski, Kark Kesel, Jonathan Hickman, Matt Fraction, Peter Milligan, Kieron Gillen, Rick Remender and Len Wein; and illustrated by Mike Deodato, Olivier Coipel, Marko Djurdjevic, Mike Mayhew, Tonci Zonjic, Carmine Di Giandomenico, Max Fiumara, Daniel Acuña and Joe Sinnott.

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